



**EVELYN TRENT**

alias

**SHANTHI DEVI**

(Founder member of exile Indian Communist party)

**N.INNAIAH**

Evelyn Trent *alias* Shanti Devi

First Impression 1995

Price: £ 5 \$10 Rs.100

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Sole distributor:

**M/s Booklinks Corporation Ltd,**  
Narayanaguda, Hyderabad - 500 027  
Andhra Pradesh, India.

Published By:

**Ms. V.Komala**

A-60, Journalist Colony,  
Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033, India.

Printed at:

**Kala Jyothi Process,**  
Charminar 'x' Roads,  
Hyderabad-5000 20, India.

To  
NAVEENA  
My daughter



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## PREFACE

Evelyn Trent ( 1892-1970) was born and educated in USA. She belongs to the old left of first world war generation, who saw the failure of capitalism and hopeful of socialism. She was left intellectual before reading Karl Marx. Evelyn was Stanford University radical graduate. At that juncture Evelyn met M.N. Roy ( 1887-1955) in Stanford University campus in 1916. Together they influenced each other, changed totally, forgot their ethnic past and grew as cosmopolitan intellectuals. That was a great meeting of east-west, disproving Rudyard Kipling, who said : east is east and west is west, never the twain shall meet.

Together Evelyn and Roy played the important role in the formation of Mexican Communist Party, exile communist party of India in Tashkent, and in the International communist movement. Roy and Evelyn lived together for a decade and parted silently in 1925. The reasons for divorce are yet to be discovered. They maintained stoic silence about each other. Roy, while narrating his Memoirs to Ellen (1904-1961) did not mention any thing about the role of Evelyn. That is unfair on the part of M. N. Roy. It is not writing history in scientific way. Evelyn was keen if Roy said any thing about her and curiously followed the serial published in Radical Humanist Weekly published from India during 1953-54. To her utter disappointment, Evelyn found not a word about her.

Ellen followed the track, contacted Evelyn after the death of Roy and encouraged research scholars to meet Evelyn for

further research. Robert C. North was the earliest American Scholar from Stanford University to correspond and meet Evelyn. Sib Narayan Ray from India tried to meet Evelyn in Vain but continued his correspondence with her till late 60's. He failed to persuade her in writing her memoirs. Other scholars also failed to extract any information from Evelyn regarding her early communist role. The only successful person was Robert C North who maintained cordial relationship and kept her address as a secret. Samaren Roy from India tried to get information about Evelyn posthumously but could get very later.

At that juncture, I made an attempt to collect information about Evelyn in USA and could meet her nephew Mr. Diven Meredith, and could also correspond her nieces who sent me rare photos and some material about Evelyn. I could get rare material from Hoover Institute in Stanford University and from National Archives, Washington DC. I hope to get more information in near future regarding the reasons for the separation of Evelyn and M.N. Roy.

I tried to trace the photos of Evelyn and M.N. Roy together but could get only one photograph where in they participated in a rally in Petrograde, USSR, 1922. But the xerox copy is not visible for reproduction.

I am thankful to Mr. Atluri Ashok, Mr. Mudduluru Sree Rama Raju and Mrs. Kavitha Shivram of Zen Technologies Limited, Hyderabad for preparing computer copy of this script. I express my gratitude to Mr. D. Anjaneyulu, for correcting the script. My friend Mr. Alapati Ravindranath, editor Misimi, monthly offered to make printing arrangement and I am expressing my sincere thanks to him.

N. INNAAH.

## EVELYN DISCOVERED

"To my Goddess from her loving worshipper"

M.N. Roy inscribed on the back of his photograph which was meant for Evelyn Trent. In the papers of Evelyn Trent which were donated to the Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace this inscription was found. The papers were donated by Diven Merideth, the nephew of Evelyn Trent in 1970. They were very few and mostly belong to post 1950 with very few biographical details.

The house of Evelyn Trent was burnt down in 1963 and all her records were also damaged. caught fire. She died on 21st November 1970, without leaving any papers behind.(1).

M.N. Roy did not mention anything about Evelyn in his Memoirs, thus leaving many gaps to be filled and many questions to be answered. Several scholars attempted to extract details from Evelyn 1956 onwards but she chose to remain silent. All these things made my task much more difficult, but I could get information through archives, Library of Congress, University's rare collections, and some personal contacts.

M.N. Roy did not go to USA to marry Evelyn Trent. He wanted to get arms, and money from Germany so that he could fight against the British Government in India. USA

changed M.N. Roy from a bachelor to a married man. In several other aspects too, USA helped him as a catalyst. I want to give the details about Roy and Evelyn particularly in USA and also about their life in Mexico. I am not repeating anything that other eminent scholars had already said in their studies on Roy.

M.N. Roy was a lie-hunter but he had to lie to the American authorities to conceal his identity. He escaped the British police in India, acquired a fake passport and travelled from Yokahoma (Japan) in Nippon Maru (ship). He was still Naren but the alien passenger record gave the following details: "Martin Chas Allen.

28 years male single missionary. Nationality French Permanent address Church, Pondicherry, India. No friend or relative. height 6 foot. Dark, brown eyes. beard. Place of birth: Haïtes. City: Ionainis. Final destination: Paris(2).

Nippon Maru started from Yokahoma on 28 May 1916. M.N. Roy (Naren) while talking to the co-passengers in the ship said that the blacks in USA should rebel against the white supremacy and assert themselves (3). Bhagawan Singh, another terrorist revolutionary from India also travelled along with M.N. Roy (4).

The ship had to reach San Francisco on 14th June according to the Daily commercial News. But the ship reached on 15 June 1916 (again the news announced in the Daily commercial News, a daily from San Francisco).

Roy stayed in Bellevue hotel in San Fransisco. On his arrival the press reporters called on him.

San Fransisco Examiner, a daily from San Fransisco, reported: "Rev C.A. Martin, a native of Pondicherry, India, is at Bellevue.

The visitor who is a Roman Catholic has spent the last two years as a missionary and a student in China. He is en route to Paris where he will enter one of the Seminaries. He describes the condition in China as one of "unlimited chaos". (16 June 1916 page 11 column 5 Notables at the hotels)

San Fransisco Chronicle, a leading daily from San Fransisco reported: "C.A. Martin, a Roman Catholic priest who has spent several years in India, is at the Bellevue on his way to Paris , where he will enter a theological seminary. For the last two years he has been in China and Japan." (16 June 1916 page 7 Personal and Hotel gossip)

: M.N. Roy, in his memoirs, mentioned about reports and headings in papers saying that there was a German spy in the city. The three dailies mentioned above did not report any such matter. V.B. Karnik in his "M.N. Roy-a Political Biography" mentioned about the Daily News. But that daily was published as campus newspaper in Berkeley, away from San Fransisco, and did not report anything about Roy.

After a couple of days in Bellevue, Roy left for Stanford University campus in Palo Alto and met Dhan Gopal Mukerji. Roy met him through an introductory letter from Jadu Mukerji, Dhan Gopal's brother, who worked with Roy in the nationalist movement. Dhan Gopal was already a Stanford graduate (1914) and was staying in the Campus: 861 (5) Ramona, Palo Alto. Soon after Roy rented a house nearby and stayed there for six months: At that time Roy did not know that he was staying in a place owned by the landlady of 245 Ramona Street, Palo Alto. She was the mother of the Police chief of Palo Alto. In the beginning the police did not know who Roy was By the time they got the information Roy, had already left. But Mrs. Noble told them that Roy used to get lots of mail, especially from England (6).

Roy stayed in Ramona street so that he could meet Dhan Gopal often. Dhan Gopal Mukerji was a contact for Bengali revolutionaries. He was essentially a poet, writer and academician. He came to USA in 1908 and later joined Stanford University with and graduated with history in 1914. He loved another Stanford graduate-Ethel Rae Dugan. She graduated from Stanford in 1915. When Roy arrived in Palo Alto, Dhan Gopal and Ethel Rae were dating. Ethel was an Irish-American and a close friend of Evelyn Trent. Evelyn and Roy met accidentally at Dhan Gopal's residence and loved each other.

Who was Evelyn Trent? Here are the details about her.



## EVELYN LEONORA TRENT

Evelyn Trent was not merely the first wife of M.N. Roy; she played great role in the International politics and also in developing the Indian Communist movement. Yet, none remembered her in India and celebrated her centenary in 1992. One cannot find her name in the who is who of USA since she was a Communist! Humanists in India were not particular about her as she left Roy long before he evolved as a humanist. Despite all this, Evelyn had played an important role in shaping the life and thought of M. N. Roy in the early stages.

Evelyn Trent was the seventh child in the family of Lamartine-Mary DeLome Macleod.. She was born in USA on 20 October 1982 in the Salt lake city, Utah state (7). Lamartine Cavaignac Trent was a famous mining engineer. he migrated from England in 1860. Lamartine was born on 13 December 1848 to Edwin and Augusta S. Luckett in London. It was not known why he left London at the age of 12 and sailed to USA as a cabin boy and worked on the high seas for three years. Lamartine also participated in the civil war and was wounded. Then he worked in engineering firms and became an engineer. He perfected the Frue Vanning Machine, which he introduced in USA and abroad. Lamartine got married on June 5, 1878. On the invitation of Japan, Australia and Tasmania he visited those countries as mining advisor. At the time of Evelyn's birth, Lamartine was organising his own firm L.C. Trent & Co Engineers, which he sold out later (8). As Lamartine was constantly moving from place to place, Evelyn had to have her

schooling at in several places. Evelyn Trent joined Girls' Polytechnic high school in Los Angeles in 1908 and completed the course in 1911. Then she joined Stanford University and it was a turning point in her academic career. Her brother Edwin Walter was already in the university. Stanford was a prestigious university, though conservative in certain respects. David Jordan Starr was the Chancellor of the University. He was a scientist and a peace lover. Evelyn later developed close contact with him (9). When Evelyn was studying, women in USA did not have the right to vote.

Evelyn Trent was very active in Stanford University between 1912 and 1915. She belongs to Alpha Phi sorority in which her close friend Ethel Rae Dugan was also with her (10). Evelyn was in women's athletic association as one of the directors. She was in fencing sport and tennis club. She was the associate editor of Quad, Stanford university annual, in 1914 and 1915. Evelyn took English as her main subject and philosophy and French as her optionals. During her second year, Evelyn acted as Ethel, the Duchess of Carbondale in the three act comedy "On the Quiet" by Augustus Thomas. Her rare histrionic ability made a deep impression on the viewers and her performance was rated as very high (11).

Evelyn discussed Tagore in the University with Bengalis and Mexicans. While continuing her studies, Evelyn also taught poor children an hour a day. She pitied the poor children in the campus. Evelyn wondered that millions of dollars were pouring in to be spent on munitions and on the horrors of war while the ready children were left in desperate condition (12). Evelyn and Ethel Rae Dugan often called on Jessie Louise Knight, the second wife of David Jordan Starr, the Chancellor of Stanford University. There they met the Chancellor too.

Evelyn used to express her feelings, and write her experiences in the university to her mother. Evelyn completed her graduation and started applying for jobs in the early part of 1916. She wanted to earn through her writings and wished to concentrate on problems of unemployment, poverty and other economic issues. At that juncture Evelyn met M.N. Roy. Events took a different turn from then on.

### M. N. ROY - EVELYN TRENT

Evelyn Trent and M.N. Roy met at Dhan Gopal Mukerji's place and fell in love. As per the American custom, they were dating for one year to understand each other before marriage. Dhan Gopal Mukerji and Ethel Rae Dugan also were dating and they got married in New York in 1918. After meeting Roy in Palo Alto, Evelyn changed her plans, stopped applying for jobs. Instead, she planned to go to Europe along with Roy. M.N. Roy was in touch with Germans but he could neither get the promised money nor arms from the Germans. At one stage, M.N. Roy planned to go to Germany in U-53 submarine. But Evelyn's parents did not like that idea. Hence they dropped the plan (13). M.N. Roy and Evelyn must have visited Los Angeles in July 1916 where Evelyn's parents and sisters lived. Evelyn applied for a passport to visit European countries. Those were the days of the first World War and the American Government was not willing to issue passports to its citizens. Evelyn requested Mr David Jordan Starr for a recommendation letter to the State Department. He readily sent her that letter. Even before receiving that letter, Evelyn applied for the passport. She thanked David Jordan Starr for his letter and said that she would keep his letter as a memento (14).

M.N. Roy was active in Palo Alto. Mr S.P. Sarkar, another Indian revolutionary, was staying with Roy in Palo Alto. Roy patronised the cleaning and pressing establishment of Japanese firm in Palo Alto (15). He was in touch with Indian revolutionaries in USA. He was also

receiving regular mail from Mr Kelly of U.K. M.N. Roy stayed in Palo Alto for six months. He then moved to New York with Evelyn. January 1917 onwards the police were hunting Roy. Hence the Roy's quite often moved from one place to another in New York to escape the police surveillance.

M.N. Roy was in touch with Dhan Gopal Mukerji from New York. He was enquiring about Sailen Ghosh, another Indian revolutionary. Sailen demanded money from Roy and was angry with Roy for not sending it on time. He expressed his anger through telegram when Roy was staying in 2117 Daly Avenue in New York. Roy himself was hard pressed for money and at last he could only manage to send \$ 25 to Sailen Ghosh.

Mr Walter Edwin, brother of Evelyn, was in New York but he was reluctant to help Evelyn. Hence Evelyn was forced to go in for odd jobs and she was for a while employed by American Society in 131 E. 23rd St. Roy changed his residence as often as possible, stayed in 239 E 19th st. and later rented an apartment in 19th west 44th st. in New York. He gave the Ceylon restaurant as his care of address (672, 8th Ave) to receive his mail. M.N. Roy came in touch with Lajpat Rai and attended some of his meetings. Roy was also visiting New York Public library, meeting some professors in Columbia University and a few others in New York. Lajpat Rai was impressed with the Roy's and employed Evelyn for a couple of months and paid her some amount as a token help (16). But the net was closing in over USA Pro German revolutionaries of India were rounded up in the States. Charges of

sedition were framed. At that juncture, M.N. Roy was also arrested and taken into custody for questioning. The U.S. attorney of New York district questioned him. Scinting the danger, M.N. Roy and Evelyn quickly arranged for their wedding and got married in the Jail (17). Roy was released on bail for want of sufficient evidence. He thought that it would be the best opportunity to escape.. He, along with Evelyn, travelled to Texas state and acquired a false passport, crossed the border and safely reached Mexico on 15 June 1917. Roy had come to USA at the same time exactly one year ago. (18). Police in New York approached Mrs. Blanchard to get information about the Roy's. The police pretended to be journalists from Saturday Post and told her that Roy sent some story to their paper and they want some clarification regarding the article before publishing it. But they could not get any information from Mrs. Blanchard as Roy was no longer staying with her and she informed them that Roy had left the place (19). In the absence of Roy, the San Fransisco court indicted him on 7 July 1917. Lajpat Rai noted it and perhaps informed Roy. The British consul immediately intimated the arrival of Roy's to the USA police. They want to deport Roy's to USA but the Mexican government was against that move. Roy and Evelyn were staying in Calls Cordoba 33 in Mexico city. Hirendanath Sen, another revolutionary from India, stayed there with Roy for some time (20).

Mexico was a safe place even for Germans. They sent the promised money to Roy. \$6750 and 15,000 pesos (Mexicon currency) were kept in the bank in the name of Evelyn Trent. Evelyn artfully juggled several aliases like-- Martin, Roy, Allen, Trent etc. (21).

M.N. Roy formed "the Friends of India" League and started propagating for the freedom of India. Evelyn was the director of the league (22). Evelyn was in touch with her mother and corresponded with her. She informed her about the lectures delivered by Roy in Mexico which evoked much sympathy. Evelyn herself expressed the desire to visit India. She wished that the wanted American millions should pour into India to build schools, factories and universal cities.

Evelyn had an introductory letter to Alvarado Salvarado, the Governor of Yukaten state in Mexico. She proposed to take up some educational programmes (23).

Dr. John Mex, a German socialist who was in Mexico, became a close friend of Roy. But he soon left Mexico to escape Kaiser's army. Roy learnt Spanish language very fast and wrote a number of articles and published a few pamphlets.

Roy was in touch with Lajpat Rai in New York and also constantly contacting other Indian revolutionaries like Chandra Kant Chakravathy.

M.N. Roy continued to be an aggressive nationalist in Mexico until Borodin arrived. Even on 27 March 1918, Roy sent an article to *The Young India*, a monthly edited by Lajpat Rai from New York and asked him to publish it. He wanted Lajpat Rai to respect the other viewpoint on the cause of India. In the article, M.N. Roy expressed his views as member of Revolutionaary Party. Roy wanted Free India and not Home Rule. He opined that the young India was reflecting the opinion of the party but not the ideals of

the Indian people. He said that Annie Besant and such other leaders can never be our leaders in the cause of Indian Liberty and the restitution of Indian rights. He blamed Lajpat Rai for pleading for Home Rule. Lajpat Rai expressed the view that India cannot stand as in Independent nation. M.N. Roy said that Lajpat Rai was mistaken. In expressing such an opinion Lajpat Rai was damning every hope of attaining freedom for India.

Lajpat Rai wanted to put forth the Home Rule proposal in the peace committee. But M.N. Roy said that England can lightly dismiss such begging by placing two Indian dummies in the lobby of Peace Parliament. That will be the answer of England to the plea of representation as envisaged by Lajpat Rai. M.N. Roy expressed the view that England will never grant India real Home Rule nor fiscal autonomy because it is the economic, not political, control of India which is vital to England's position as a great power. Lajpat Rai was pleading for Indian representation in the Parliament not necessarily composed of Indians and it was a meek request. He asked Lajpat Rai to stand boldly for complete independence as a



right. M.N. Roy asked him: By what right spirit of patriotism are you prompted to insinuate those, who are working for revolution in India to overthrow British rule, as ramifications of German conspiracy? M.N. Roy said that India's 315 000 000 people are human beings and do not need England or any other nation to give home rule, autonomy, self government or any other form of political concessions. Only a revolution would make India free and a self-respecting nation. Obviously Lajpat Rai did not publish the article. (24)

M.N. Roy came closer to the President of Mexico Mr Enustiano Carranza. The Germans and the Mexicans generally opposed United States. Roy was getting German funds and support. Germany was defeated in the First World War and the flow of funds stopped. But he had received enough funds for his political activities. Several Radical Americans arrived in Mexico, with whom Roy developed close contact. They often met at Roy's place and the Roy's slowly and gradually changed to absorbing socialist thought. Roy and Evelyn were very good hosts to the radical socialists in Mexico. Roy founded the Socialist Party and became the Chairman of the Conservative Socialist Party. Its convention was held in Mexico from 25th August to 4th September, 1919.

Michael Borodin arrived in Mexico as a pauper and Roy came to his rescue. On the suggestion of Borodin, Mexican socialist Party was converted in to the first communist party outside Soviet Union. On the suggestion of Borodin, Lenin invited M.N. Roy and Evelyn to the International congress in Moscow. M.N. Roy attended it as a Mexican delegate whereas Evelyn attended the congress as Indian delegate!

Roy and a Evelyn founded the exile Communist Party of India in Tashkent on 20 October in 1920. They attended a rally in Petrograd. Evelyn was reporting her views and experiences to her mother through letters and personal messages. She was in all praise for the social conditions in the Soviet Union.

Evelyn's parents were staying in Washington D.C. area. Evelyn used to send letters to them. She expressed her desire to work for the Indian Revolutionary Party (25). Ten years after M.N. Roy had left Mexico, Serge Eisenstein (1898-1948) visited Mexico, studied the society and made a film 'QUE VIVA MEXICO.' At the outset, M.N. Roy was shown as one of the main builders of Mexican society. Stalin lost interest in Eisenstein and Roy by that time which he expressed to Sinclair Lewis in a telegram. The picture was not released during the life-time of Eisenstein. though he was honored with the Lenin's award in Russia. Later, it was released and got awards (26).

## EVELYN IN ENGLAND ...WHY?

After the formation of Communist Party of India in Tashkent Evelyn took active interest in Indian affairs. The role of M.N. Roy as a Communist was recorded extensively by several scholars. I am not repeating them. But the activities of Evelyn Roy were not properly appreciated.

Evelyn suddenly landed in England on May 21 in 1921. She came in the ship from Estonia port Revel (Tallin), Evelyn adopted the pseudonym Allen and reached with a Mexican Passport. Obviously, Evelyn had a message to the British Communist Party from M.N. Roy. But the British police did not allow her to do anything in England. They recognized her as the wife of M.N. Roy, the famous Communist in Soviet Union

The British authorities deported Evelyn from Plymouth port to Panama. Michael Lvovitch Gobermann, a member of the Soviet delegation received Evelyn in Revel earlier. Mr W.E. Kasper, Estonian communist, sent telegrams about the deportation of Evelyn and asked Tnasaq to treat her well. He arranged for the transfer of her bank account to New York and informed about it to her sister, Helen Power who was in Piedmont, California state. He also informed Menbroson in Montreal about Evelyn's bad health saying that she was traveling alone and should be treated well.

Similar telegrams went to Mexico too. The reference to her bad health is only a make believe since the authorities were watching her. Ramirez, the Mexican delegate to the

Third International in Moscow also sent telegrams to Valodes in Mexico about Evelyn.

Evelyn did not go to USA or Canada. Instead she returned to Soviet Union and plunged into hectic Communist activity, along with M.N. Roy. But the mission of Evelyn Trent in England remained as a mystery till this day and has to be probed further.

Stalin and M.N. Roy founded the University of the workers of the East in Moscow. It was meant to train the cadre of different Communist Parties of various countries. M.N. Roy and Evelyn taught in this university. Roy was the director of this university. The university started functioning in 1921 and closed in 1938. M.N. Roy and Evelyn were constantly moving in European countries. They established contacts with Indian Communists. They were publishing journals in English under various titles and despatching them to India. Evelyn adopted the name Shanti Devi and contributed articles to the journals. Her famous article was on Lenin when he died. It was written under the title "The loss of Lenin to the world Revolution".

Evelyn contributed a critical article on Gandhi. she wrote another manifesto on "Hindu-Muslim question". She addressed a lengthy letter to AITUC under the caption "Where are the Masses?" during the Lahore session in 1923. Her article "Will the British Labor Government stand for this?" had brief life sketches of Dange, Muzaffer Ahmed, Nalini Gupta, Singaravelu and M.N. Roy. Evelyn also

wrote about Bombay textile strike under the caption "Long drawn Bombay textile strike 1924."

Apart from writing articles Evelyn was editing journals like Vanguard, Advanced VanGuard, The Masses of India and assisted M.N. Roy. Since M.N. Roy was in top positions in the international Communist movement he was constantly traveling in the Soviet Union. Hence, very often Evelyn brought out the journal alone and despatched the copies to India.

Evelyn and Roy were in touch with their American friends through VanGuard and sending the journal to them regularly. 127 persons in USA received VanGuard including, Chandrakant Chakravarthy, Bhagawan Singh, S.I. Parekh. VanGuard was also sent to China to Sun Yet Sen and one copy was sent to Persia. Evelyn arranged to despatch large bundles to India through sailors. M.N. Roy and Evelyn were active in Paris during 1924 and 25.

They were rallying exile communists under the banner Comit  Pro Hindu. M.N. Roy was arrested and deported to Luxembourg on 30th January 1925. Evelyn too was arrested along with Roy but was allowed to stay in Paris. The famous French communist leader Mr Henri Barbusse helped the Roy's in their secret organization. Evelyn Trent participated in the colonial conference held at Amsterdam on 11 and 12 July 1925. Evelyn met and discussed her future plans of sending material to India through the sailors. She met a number of communists including Mr Joshi and held talks. She wanted to meet Mr Chamanlal for

discussions but he refused since he belonged to Saklatvala's group which opposed Roy. Evelyn wanted to pursue the matter. What happened between the Amsterdam conference and 30 July 1925, we do not yet know. But Evelyn Trent left Paris on 30th July 1930 saying that she intended to visit her mother in USA. Georges Agabekov, former chief of the Eastern section in Russia wrote in his book "The Russian Secret Terror mentioned thus". "The first intimation of the bad faith of the Indian communist Roy came through Farouki. He suggested that Roy's wife being an Englishwoman, might be an English spy. When the suspicion was confirmed, Roy was separated from all political activity." The federal investigation department in USA discovered the secret entry of Evelyn Trent into the country in October 1925. They wanted to deport her off but later dropped the idea. They observed her activities closely for some time and left her alone afterwards. Evelyn without Roy 1925 - 1935 Evelyn Trent returned to her motherland after eight years. She led a hectic political life during those eventful eight years. When she entered USA in 1925 Evelyn was 32 years old with a promising future.

Evelyn plunged into activity immediately by joining the Indians in Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys near San Francisco and agitating along with them. Evelyn was in touch with her mother, and her sister, J D Meredith and Helen Power. She renewed her contacts with her brother Walter in New York, who was angry with her for marrying Roy.

Evelyn contacted her beloved teacher Mr David Jordan Starr who sent her "The Higher Foolishness" for review in San Francisco Chronicle. The editor had already allotted the book to some one else for review and she could not do it. She appreciated the mellow satire, wholesome pinpricking of many a lurking Psychological delusion that people are prone to hug. The book was reviewed by Mr Small for San Francisco Chronicle (27). Evelyn Trent joined San Francisco Chronicle as feature writer and continued until 1935. She conducted "World Topics" in KPO radio station from October 1928 onwards which attracted several intellectuals in USA. It was corroborated by San Francisco Chronicle too. She travelled across the Atlantic Ocean several times to cover world topics during 1928-30 (28). Evelyn wanted to take up more serious tasks and moved to New York in 1929. She contributed to Herald Tribune as feature writer. she was also editor of fiction published by McLure News paper Syndicate in New York (29). She was writing on varied topics, covering from dance to women politicians. she wrote on Agnes Boone (30), the western pioneer dancer of California to Stanford Illustrated weekly she covered the topics like Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha, Palestine, Rare manuscripts of Chinese Jews, Samoa, New Caliph of Islam, Argentina, Reclamation plans of Egypt, Woman has leading role in Kuomintang, Balkan monarchy Feminist studies of world situation, Hungary, Napoleon and several such topics. Evelyn Trent was settling down in New York with future plans. But that was a short lived effort. During 1931 she had many shocks.

Her beloved teacher David Jordan Starr died, She had been expressing concern about his health and corresponding with him till the end. M.N. Roy was arrested in India and treated badly. Evelyn reacted spontaneously. She wrote an article in *Revolutionary Age*, the Communist weekly from New York, condemning the British Imperialist regime in India (31). She signed as "E.R." Above all, she received the news of her beloved mother's death in July 1931 in Auburn. Evelyn immediately rushed to Auburn in California state. She gave up her plans temporarily and started taking care of her aged father. She occasionally contributed to journals from Auburn. In 1935 her father Mr Lamartine died in Auburn. After the death of her parents, Evelyn Trent left Auburn and stayed in Sacramento, the capital city of California, and contributed to local papers on various topics. Evelyn married Mr Dewitt Jones on October 10, 1936 (32). M.N. Roy was released from prison in the same year. There was no correspondence between Roy and Evelyn since 1925. We do not know whether they were separated or divorced legally. Evelyn Trent and Dewitt Jones lived a happy life. They had no children. Dewitt was also a writer and a business man. Evelyn too moved to different places along with her second husband and wherever she was, her talent as journalist was recognized. She wrote a number of articles in the *State Emergency Rehabilitation Bulletin* in San Fransisco with which her husband was connected.



Dewitt Jones died on 20 February 1949. Evelyn Trent then permanently returned to her parent's place Auburn and settled there doing odd jobs and writing occasionally. She lead a peaceful life until her death on 21st November 1970.

#### **ALBERT EINSTEIN PLEADS FOR RELEASE OF M.N. ROY**

"M.N. Roy, in a cultural point of view, a valuable personality, is threatened with death. "In the general interest of humanity, it is essential that the political fight, inevitable in its way, avoid the primitive method of extermination. Only in this way the political fight can be beneficial in longer term for the general public."

Einstein issued this statement from Princeton University on 26 September 1931 (33).

M.N. Roy, an intellectual Communist, returned to India after 16 years. He was touring India under the name of Mahmood and continuing the fight against British rule in India. M.N. Roy was already indicted in several cases IN ABSENTIA and the conviction was pending. The Indian Communists already launched a vicious campaign against Roy under the direction of Moscow. They leaked the news of Roy's whereabouts to the British police. In the middle of July 1931 Roy was arrested in Bombay. The charge was "waging war against the King."

American communists (majority group) reacted immediately and The Revolutionary Age, a weekly, published the news of the arrest. They commented on the shameful silence of official Communist press in India and Russia. The International Communist opposition took initiative and wanted to save Roy from the bloody claws of British Imperialism. Revolutionary Age commented that "The Indian agents of English Labor" government have arrested Comrade Roy and have thrown him into prison. They appealed to the International opinion to be built up sufficiently to hold the heavy hand of The Britishers.

The official Communist Party of India had been carrying on the most shameful attacks on Comrade Roy who was working illegally in India. The paper said that "these 100% communists" declared that the renegade Roy must be fought with all means at hand, even denunciations to the police! "The International Red aid, organized specially to defend revolutionary and class was prisoners, refuses to do anything about the arrest of Comrade Roy. "Let the renegade rot in prison" is what a responsible official of the German Red Aid remarked. The Red Aid is ready to help German Fascists but can do nothing for Comrade Roy!

Inspite of the fact that the official communist leaders have organized a veritable conspiracy of silence about the case, The revolutionary age commented about a large public mass meeting called in Hamburg under the auspices of the Communist party of Germany voted unanimously in favor of a resolution against the arrest of Manavendranath Roy.

Resolutions for the release of Roy poured in from Germany, Sweden, Alsace, Czechoslovakia and communist opposition organizations. Revolutionary Age requested that Every labor organization, every organization of oppressed colonial peoples or national minorities, every liberty loving man and woman should unite to demand the release of M.N. Roy from the claws of British imperialism. (Sept. 12, 1931). When Roy's trial was set for October 1931, several intellectuals, including Einstein, appealed for the release of Roy. They were

"Henri Barbusee, Editor French communist leader, Prof. Jerome Davis of Yale University, DR W.E.B. DuBois, editor, Crisis and Black leader, Waldo Frank, author, Garfield Hays, attorney, John Haynes Holmes, Minister of the community church, Prof. Robert Morss Lovett, University of Chicago, A.J Muste, Brookwood labor college, Julia Lethrop, former chief of federal children's Bureau, Norman Thomas director of the League of Industrial Democracy; Oswald Garrison Villard, Editor Nation and roger E. Baldwin, issued an appeal which was carried in Revolutionary Age (Nov. 14, 1931).

Several organizations also demanded the release of Roy: The teachers and students of Public high school of Tinz. The functionaries conference of the chemical workers union, The Braunschweig teachers union, The Nuremberg building traders, workers union, the metal workers union of Sommerda, The central trades and labor councils of Schoningen, The Nature-friends of Jena, The League for the Struggle against Reaction and Fascism.

M.N.Roy appealed from Cawnpore prison to the workers, peasants and radical intellectuals of the whole world to come to the support of the Indian masses striving for freedom and to demand the release of the thousands of Indian revolutionaries from the dungeons of the British prisons. he also condemned the crimes of British labor government. he pointed out the suicidal policy of the executive of the communist international and of the "Loyalite communists" of India. Roy sent this message on 23 August 1931, which was fully carried in The Revolutionary Age, New York.

The American Communists (majority group) cabled to Gandhi in London with a request to intervene on behalf of Roy but he declined. Gandhi was attending the Round Table conference at that time. Gandhi was asked to issue a statement, but he refused. Roy's arrest was discussed in Canadian Labor defence League where they wanted to wire to Berlin to ascertain the facts. Frederick Inter- Racial club of Brooklyn, New York, and Boro Park Workers Youth Club of Brookiyn in New York too passed resolutions for the release of Roy. Revolutionary age carried articles from Independent India, a weekly from

Bombay about defence committees formed to fight for Roy in India. AITUC established a defence fund in support of Roy. The paper also carried the news how demonstrations and agitations in favor of Roy were suppressed by the police in India. They have noted the details of the various defence committees organized in Cawnpore, Bombay, Calcutta, Lucknow, and Delhi. Mr B. Singh, the secretary of Roy defence committee, informed the world about the condition of Roy and the ill treatment to him in British prisons. In the various defence committees, there were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Tayyab Shaik, V.B. Karnik, R. S. Ruiker, Purushotham Das Trikamdas and several prominent leaders. Mr B. Singh also revealed how Roy was treated in jail, and condemned the attack on Roy in the German press (an article) that Roy was arrested as an accomplice of imperialism and for purely diplomatic reasons. He stated that Roy was not permitted to receive books, newspapers and even a typewriter was refused though the court sanctioned one. Roy was not allowed any ventilation to his room and even ice and hot water were not allowed. M.N. Roy was sentenced to twelve years of imprisonment. American Communists described the sentence as savage and a severe blow to the liberation movement. They resolved to continue the struggle for the release of Roy. Ajoy Kumar Ghosh described the details of Roy's trial. The magistrate came to the jail instead of taking the prisoner to the court. The Local Bar association took up the case of Roy's defence. Viceroy Lord Willingdon himself personally took interest in deciding the prison cell of Roy.

The communist parties appealed for books, money to help the legal defence of Roy. When the money came they sent some amount to Roy -in prison but the postal authorities returned it saying that Roy refused it. Actually the authorities never brought this to the notice of Roy. The class distinctions in prisons in India was also exposed abroad, when Roy was treated as a third class prisoner, forced to wear heavy prison clothing, eat coarse prison food. Roy lost much weight in prison and suffered physically as well as mentally.

When rumors were spread that Comrade Roy was shifted from Cawnpore jail, thousands of railway workers gathered in Lucknow station and demonstrated. They found that the prisoner was not Roy and then they raised slogans in support of Roy. The Communist press in USA carried the news of Roy until the sentence was reduced to six years and Roy was treated as a political prisoner. The Workers Age carried full reports about Roy (34).

## EVELYN TRENT - NOT IGNORED

Evelyn Trent was not ignored but she was not given the importance due to her. After the demise of her second husband she returned to Auburn, California and settled down in Linden Avenue.

Albert Einstein, in his capacity as chairman and trustee of Emergency committee of Atomic Scientists requested for Evelyn's help and at once she responded. Einstein thanked her on behalf of his colleagues for her generous response in the great educational task undertaken by the committee. He appreciated her practical support and goodwill. Einstein expressed hope for a reasonable solution of the problem of nuclear bombs (35).

Evelyn was keen to read the memoirs of M.N. Roy, which were serialized in the Radical Humanist, a weekly. Roy did not mention anything about Evelyn though he covered exactly that period. We do not know the reaction of Evelyn since she had never expressed anything about it (36).

Richard Park, an expert on Indian Communism referred his study to Evelyn Trent. She responded saying that there were many misinterpretations and errors. She questioned the sources and said that simply because something appeared in print, that should not be taken as authentic unless verified. She pointed out the glaring mistakes to Richard Park. She denied the false accusations of Mr Chakravarthy, the Indian revolutionary, and she described his writings as imaginary.

Commenting on M.N. Roy in her letter to Park, she said that Roy played a considerable role in the Indian Revolutionary movement at an intellectual level. Evelyn paid glorious tributes to Roy in commenting that Roy was the first to dignify it with a philosophy and literature which became widely recognized. Evelyn wanted to admire Roy and not vilify his great role. She said that Roy passed through many evolutionary phases in his own development and had the capacity to learn. Evelyn condemned those who accept the views of Lt. Col. Kaye the British police agent who was not impartial in estimating Roy. She asked Park not to do disservice by hostile interpretations of Roy's integrity and sincerity in the development of the Indian revolutionary movement (37).

Robert C. North who studied the mission of Roy in China approached Evelyn Trent in 1957 and was in touch with her till her last days. North wanted several details from Evelyn and sent a lengthy questionnaire but Evelyn asked him to meet her personally for discussions instead of putting anything in writing. Accordingly Prof. North visited her and held discussions with her in Auburn.



Prof. Sibnarayan Ray corresponded with Evelyn in 1958. Ellen Roy, the second wife of M.N. Roy, recommended Sibnarayan Ray to Evelyn. Robert C. North wanted to bring M.N. Roy alive without doing any violence to the truth and at the same time wished to protect Evelyn who wanted to keep her privacy. Prof. North sent her many questions about Roy's trip to Tashkent, Spain, Europe and Russia. Evelyn never failed to respond to Prof. North and pointed out the mistakes and questioned the authenticity of the sources. But she always admired the work of North.

Several scholars in the world tried to reach Evelyn through Prof. North. Nathaniel Weyl, who published several critical books on communist movements, approached North for help from Evelyn. Similarly, Muzaffar Ahmed too approached Prof. North through correspondence. Prof. North forwarded the letters to Evelyn but she did not respond to them directly.

Mr P.C. Joshi who was in Jawaharlal Nehru university and wanted to write a book on the Indian Communist movement tried to contact Evelyn through Walter Hauser, professor at the University of Virginia. North referred all those letters to her. Sibnarayan Ray requested Evelyn to write her memoirs but she never obliged. Evelyn informed Prof. North that her apartment in Auburn was burnt down in 1963 and all her papers were destroyed in fire. She asked him to be discreet in giving her address to others. She later used the post box address system. When she was in her 70s, Evelyn attended night school in Auburn to learn some courses and she worked for placer country welfare department. Evelyn never retired from work till her death!

## References and Notes:

1. Hoover institution Archives Jones, Evelyn Trent 1892-1970 Papers 1925-1969. American journalist, wife of Manabendra Nath Roy Indian communist leader. Summary: Correspondence, Notes, pamphlets, clippings and photographs relating to M.N. Roy and the communist movement in India. The manuscript box folder I contains brief biography note also was not there. Folder two consists of correspondence of Evelyn with her mother, Robert North, Richard Park, Renaissance Publishers India, letters addressed to Evelyn by Sibnarayan Ray, Ellen Roy, Robert North and Richard Park. Folder three and four contained news paper clippings of Evelyn's as feature writer and contributed to San Francisco Chronicle Sacramento Bay area news papers, Stanford Illustrated weekly, One letter from Einstein thanking her for her help to the atomic scientists committee. Roy's obituary in Radical Humanist Jan 25, 1963 issue The Hoover Institute referred my letter to Mr Diven Merideth seeking permission to use the material. Mr Diven is the son of Evelyn's sister Mrs. J. D. Merideth. He is now staying in California state. He permitted me to use the papers of Evelyn and also sent her photograph of 1950s at my request. The Hoover Institute papers mentioned the dates 1925 to 1969 but there was nothing to reveal the communist phase of Evelyn nor her married life with M.N. Roy. The library of Congress has the information of Evelyn in the Unpublished manuscripts catalogue. The photos of M.N. Roy in the archives belong to Mexico period and no photo of Evelyn was found in the papers. The letter addressed to Richard Park was burnt at the edges and a part of it was not there. The papers indicate that Evelyn

valued her privacy and that makes the researcher's task all the more difficult! See Archives of Hoover Institution on war, Revolution and peace Stanford, California, USA

2. National Archives, USA in Washington D.C. list of Manifest of Alien passengers 1893 - 1953 121 M 1410 Roll 90 May 23, 1916 Microfilm The curious aspect in the information is that the place of birth was given as HAITES and the city in which Roy was born was Ionainis!

3. See the files of Justice department in National Archives Washington D.C. Microfilm copy. The index card says that 400 pages of matter was available on Roy.

4. Bhagawan Singh was revolutionary who was indicted in U.S.A. in 1917. Roy sent him Vanguard journal from Geneva even in 1924. See War Department files-Microfilm and Central research files in National Archives, Washington D.C.

5. Mukerji, Dhan Gopal (1890 - 1936) was the son of a priest in Bengal. He was in Japan for a short period and picked up Japanese and he could speak French with ease. He wrote a few books for children and he was essentially spiritualist. He believed in Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He toured India during 1927 and met Jawaharlal Nehru. Some of his papers and correspondence was available in Syracuse University and Pennsylvania University library, Philadelphia. David Jordan Starr had very good opinion of him.

6. See the files of Federal Bureau Investigation, U.S.A. in National Archives, Washington D.C. Files 3551 MID 9771-23.

7. Census 1900 Utah State, USA Microfilm in National Archives Washington D.C. Code T 653 The data given: Lamartine, Trent Dec. 1849 born, England; Trent DeLome, wife 1858B. age 41 Florida; Inaze, daughter 1879 age 21 Montana born; Lender daughter 1880 age 19; Lamartine, son 1882 age 18 Colorado; Walter, son 1883 17; Helen, daughter 1884 age 16 Colorado; Goodwin daughter 1886 age 14; Florence daughter 1888 age 12 Utah; Evelyn daughter 1892 Utah.

8. See: Famous persons of the West: Press Reference Library. Library of congress, Washington D.C. PP 871 In the Hoover Institute Archives among Jones, Evelyn Trent papers there is a biographical note in which a para was mentioned about Lamartine. The family name was Trent and full name was Lamartine Cavaignac. He attended some private schools in London until age 12 and then sailed to USA. He got enlisted in Co. G, 47th N.Y. Vol., Civil War and participated in first and second battles of Fort Fisher in North Carolina. It seems he was often blindfolded until he reached a given destination to assure secrecy of the location of the mineral property! He developed a dairy farm, a mine at Vantrent and mining machinery business in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He had mining properties in the vicinity of Auburn where he settled down and lived his last days.

9. David, Jordan Starr (19 Jan 1851 - 19 Sept. 1931) Was Chancellor and Emeritus Chancellor of Stanford University till his death. He stood for international peace. He collected rare species in residence along with Ethel Rae Dugan and continued her contact throughout. David appreciated her talent and helped whenever asked

for. David, Jordan Starr correspondence, papers are available in Microfilm in Stanford University library and in the Library of Congress.

10. Ethel Ray Dugan was graduated from Stanford University in 1915 with History as her subject. She married Mukerji Dhan Gopal in New York on 15th June 1918. By that time Evelyn and M.N. Roy left New York and stayed in Mexico. In New York city Mr and Mrs. Dhan Gopal Mukerji were the guests of Mr W.B. Feakins, Times Building, Times Square. Even after returning from Europe Evelyn did not contact Mr and Mrs. Mukerji. M.N. Roy also lost contact with them. Dhan Gopal died when Roy was in jail in India.

11. "On the Quiet" was three act comedy of Augustus Thomas. It was rated as one of the best American plays during the first decade of 20th century. It was staged in Broadway theaters of New York. Thomas originally named it as "Threadway of Yale". In this play a wealthy girl and another young actor decided to marry. The parents of the bridegroom cunningly promised to help him for his Harvard studies. The lovers wanted to marry after the studies. But the parents of the groom withdrew their support to see that the marriage does not take place. Hero of the play was engulfed with constant threats. Thomas created the situations which the audience enjoyed in a hilarious mood. Augustus Thomas (8 Jan. 1857 - Aug. 1934) hailed from St. Louis in USA and he produced 70 plays and contributed to the theater development in USA. Some of his popular plays are: Mizzoura, The Copperhead, The Burglar, A man of the World. Lot of publicity was given for Evelyn in those days for her performance as Ethel. It was staged in Stanford University on Feb. 28th 1913. See The San Francisco call Feb. 27, 1913.

12. See Evelyn's letter to her mother from Stanford University July 15 1912. Evelyn used to sign as Bam, Archives of Hoover Institute, Stanford, USA

13. Mukerji, Dhan Gopal told this to one Mr C.C. Anthony. F.B.I. File in National Archives, Washington D.C.

14. Evelyn wrote her first letter to David Jordan Starr on 31st August 1916 from 1417 Crown Hill Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Without waiting for the letter she applied for the passport. Meanwhile Jordan sent the letter. She thanked him through her letter on 15th September from the same place. Evelyn obviously stayed with her parents while waiting for the passport. Perhaps she introduced M.N. Roy to her parents and sisters there. See David Jordan Starr papers in microfilm-Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Unpublished documents section.

15. See F.B.I. records in National archives, Washington D.C.

16. Lala LajPat Rai was known the lion of Punjab in India. He was national leader and freedom fighter who stayed in New York temporarily due to the restriction imposed by the British govt. He was Arya Samajist who died in 1928.
17. See Dan N. Jacobs: "Borodin, Stalin's man" Harvard Uni Press, Chicago pp 68. I asked him the source for the wedding of Roy's in prison, Jacobs could not give any proof but advised me to refer to registration of Eleven's second marriage wherein she might have mentioned the reasons for the dissolution of the first marriage etc. Also Evelyn's letter to Richard Park wherein she condemned Chakravathy for denying her marriage in jail. See Jones, Evelyn Trent papers in Hoover Institute Archives, Stanford, USA
18. War department files of M.N. Roy in National Archives, Washington D.C.
19. FBI files in National Archives, Washington D.C. Evelyn and Mrs. Blanchards daughter worked in the same firm. That was the link the police tried to trace.
20. War department files in National Archives Washington D.C.
21. File 9771-72 War Department National archives Washington D.C.



EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

22. File 9991-B-41 in War department, National archives, Washington D.C. Friends of India was the international league establish in Mexico by M.N. Roy and Evelyn as directors. Prof. Jose G. Montes was the Secretary and the address was: Ap.Postal 1056, Mexico, D.F. There were two vice presidents, four more members mentioned.
23. Evelyn while withdrawing the money from the bank mentioned that she was going to Yukatan to reorganize the schools for the Government. General Alvarado Salvarado was the progressive governor for the state to whom Evelyn carried an introductory letter. See War Department files 9771-72,73 in National Archives Washington D.C.
24. War Department files 9771-25
25. Evelyn sent a letter from Petrograd to Elena Terres. She was routing the letters from Esthonia. She also sent a photo of Petrograd rally in which she and Roy participate. The photo was not very clear. See War records in National Archives War department records 9771-B 1.
26. Sergei Eisenstein 1898-1948, Russian film producer, Director. He visited Mexico from 1930 to 1932 and made Que Viva Mexico Modern Art Museum of New York has the copy of that film.
27. See Hoover Institute Archives and Stanford University rare collection, Stanford, California USA

28. KPO radio broadcasts were popular in those days (1928) Evelyn invited several prominent guests for discussions and talks on the Radio. Since those were the earliest Radio broadcasts no cord was available in audio museums.

29. McLure Newspaper Syndicate, New York, was established in 1883. It was purchased by Clinton P Brown in 1912 sold to Richard H Walden & associates in 1928. After 18 years they moved to Standard Statistical building in Lower Manhattan, New York. At that juncture Evelyn Trent edited their publications in fiction.

30. See Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford USA Agnes Boone was born in a methodist family who opposed dancing considering it a frivolity. Agnes overcome that obstacle and evolved as a pioneer in western dance. She was a contemporary of Evelyn in Stanford University. She won recognition in New York where there was a tremendous competetion. She toured France, Spain, Italy and got laurels. She taught in Boston Teacher's club.

31. Revolutionary Age was published from New York as a weekly by the majority communist group. Jay Lovestone was the editor in 1931. Ben Gitlow was the secretary of the communist majority group national council. Though Evelyn never worked with the communists in USA she was in touch with developments about Roy and reacted immediately after his arrest. This also indicates that there was no truth in the allegation about her links with British government against Roy.

32. Dewitt Jones belongs to Richmond in California State. After their marriage they moved to Oakland. Dewitt Jones worked for news papers in Sacramento and written articles in San Fransisco Chronicle. He published Newspaper from Sierra Madre in California. He was the research director to Contra Costa County development Asson. He also directed the compiling of the history of the port of Stockton and historical documents of East Bay, Alameda County Board of supervisors and State Emergency Relief Administration. He wrote for Oakland Tribune. He also worked for the Governor of California. The couple lived for some time in Sacramento. the capital of California. He was manager of Oakland industrial office of the state department of Employment. Evelyn moved to various places along with him and contributed articles in local news papers and organizations connected to her husband.

33. Revolutionary age, New York published about the statement of Einstein on 26th September 1931. The brief text of the original statement was in German and preserved in the Einstein archives of Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The copy is available in Princeton university, New Jersey library, archives and among rare collection papers. I obtained permission from Einstein Archives, Jerusalem for publishing it. I got it translated in Washington D.C.

34. The Revolutionary Age, a weekly from New York published reports regularly commencing from the arrest of M.N. Roy till the sentence and afterwards. The weekly was the official organ of the Majority communist group in USA. From the beginning of 1932 the paper was published as Workers Age and continued campaigning for M.N. Roy. The information was not carried in Indian papers in those days because of censorship and repression in India.

35. See Hoover Institute Archives: Jones, Evelyn Trent papers Princeton University. Einstein thanked Evelyn in his letter sent to her on 29th April 1947. Obviously Evelyn knew Einstein intimately and was in touch with him.

36. Evelyn responded to the correspondence from Renaissance publishers from India. She wanted to see the memoirs that were serialized in the Radical Humanist. Renaissance publishers sent her Roy's New Orientation, My experience in China and a few copies of periodicals.

37. Richard Park was the earliest scholar to approach Evelyn for information and continued correspondence with her. An important letter written to Park was burnt at the edges and only one page was retained in the papers of Evelyn. But that gave many clues about her thinking about Roy. Even after knowing that nothing was mentioned regarding her role in the memoirs of Roy, she continued her admiration for him and expressed it in clear words. She condemned Dr. Chakravathy and others for vilification of Roy. She wanted recognition for the intellectual contribution of Roy. See: Jones, Evelyn Trent papers in Hoover Institute, Stanford California, USA

It seems Prof. Robert C. North developed intimate contact with Evelyn by constantly visiting her at Auburn. North sent several letters, questions and redirected the letters of others to her. At her request North kept her residential address a secret and Evelyn used the Post Box number in her last days.

APPENDICES

CORRESPONDENCE, LETTERS, DOCUMENTS  
AND RESEARCH ON EVELYN TRENT AND  
M.N.ROY IN U.S.A.

ROBERT NORTH'S LETTER TO EVELYN TRENT  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Stanford, California

June 28, 1957

Dear Mrs.Jones:

In 1950 it was my good fortune to visit Mr M. N. Roy in Dehra Dun, and at that time I became enormously interested in his life. I was preparing a manuscript on Soviet relations with China, which was later published under the title MOSCOW AND CHINESE COMMUNISTS, and inevitably Roy figured in my writing. Now, at the suggestion of Mrs. Ellen Roy, I am writing you for further advice and help. Recently I began a rather ambitious study which I hope will lead to a biography of Roy. In this new work my interest includes the man as a personality and as a creative thinker, and Mrs. Ellen Roy, who is unhappy about certain things that have been written about him recently, urged me to seek your help. Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of MOSCOW AND CHINESE COMMUNISTS. In this book, however, my treatment is not much more than two dimensional. Some years back, before I had met Roy, I wrote a novel--REVOLT IN SAN MARCOS--and since then it has often occurred to me that my leading character, a Latin

American, is in many respects similar to Roy. In any case, my approach is warmly sympathetic, and I am anxious, above all, to try to bring back to life the man who was so generous to me in Dehra Dun in 1950.

It occurs to me, also, that you may well have strong sensibilities in the matter, and I want above all to tread gently. At the same time, Roy was far too important to be ignored or distorted for posterity, and I feel strongly that it would be an enormous and tragic loss if the people who were close to him were to guard too closely the events and shaping influences in his life.

Because of my close associations with Stanford, I doubly interested in the phases of Roy's career which you alone can bring to life. I would like, therefore, to submit beforehand a list of questions, so that you can sense the problems facing me, and then, perhaps, we could discuss them at some time suitable for you.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert C North  
Research Associate

Please rest assured that I shall respect your confidence in every regard.

Mr Robert C. North  
Stanford University, Calif

EVELYN ALLAS SHANTI DEVI

June 30, 1957

Mr Robert C. North  
Stanford University, Calif

Dear Mr North:

Your letter of June 28th received and I would like very much to read your book, which you are kind enough to say you will send me and which I have wanted to read for some time, but our library facilities are limited here. If I can be of assistance to you in your projected study, I will do what is possible, within certain limitations. Perhaps I can tell better when I see the list of questions you say you are preparing. I have not seen the things you mention that have been written recently, and am rather curious to know what they are. Has anything been published recently which I might see? You must understand that I wish to remain completely in the background as far as anything to be published is concerned, and would want my name withheld. If you can respect this condition, I will be glad to impart to you whatever information I can that may be of help in your work, so long as you approach it from a sympathetic and understanding viewpoint, which I judge from your letter, is your attitude.

Sincerely yours,  
June 30, 1957



EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

July 2, 1957

Dear Mrs. Jones:

Thank you for your kind letter. I am mailing the book, which I hope you will please keep. With this letter you will find enclosed a series of questions which may suggest the kind of material I am interested in. I assume that, in addition to the withholding of your name, you would want also a careful handling of Stanford details which might reveal almost as much. At the same time, this is, it seems to me, a fascinating and probably formative phase of Roy's life, and I would hope not to skip it altogether. Between us, we ought to be able to work out treatment which would protect you, bring Roy alive, and do no violence to the truth. Your experience as Fiction Editor has undoubtedly made you sensitive both to my problems and to the various techniques which might be used to serve our purposes.

The length of my questions may give you a start, and unfortunately, they are by no means exhaustive. I am not sure how we ought to manage the answering of them so that the burden to you will be minimal. Surely we ought to have a visit first of all, and then perhaps, you would like me to provide you with the use of Soundsciber entirely. I would prefer not to rely on a Soundsciber entirely, it being too mechanical, but if some such device would save you burden and strain for the mass of chronological detail, it might be worth try. However, as I suggested in my previous letter, I am deeply interested in Roy as a human being, and

recollections bearing on this should probably come directly from you to me without mechanical intermediary. The chief derogatory publication I am aware of is a book by S. Tagore which was published in India and is not, to my knowledge, available in this country. I copied out a large part of it because, along with much vilification, it also had valuable information. Also, I interviewed Tagore in Calcutta, and he elaborated upon his main charges. His chief charge was that Roy had misappropriated party funds. This is a charge I have heard leveled at other Communist leaders by their enemies, and I am not interested in it--though I am interested in knowing who opposed Roy and on what ideological or tactical grounds. Mrs. Ellen Roy was disturbed, however, because I had lent my notes to others who, she was afraid, might not be equally discriminating (my notes from the Tagore book, that is). This loan did not violate any confidence, but I shall be very unhappy, none the less, if they are not used with common sense. I would like very much to pay a visit some afternoon soon at your convenience.

Sincerely yours  
Robert C. North

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY Department of political science  
college of arts and science  
218 Harrison Hall  
Oxford, Ohio 45056  
513 5292000

513 529 1709 Fax

January 17, 1995  
Dr. N. Innaiah  
17319 Buehler Road  
Olney, MD 20832

Dear Dr. Innaiah

In response to your request for information about M. N. Roy and Evelyn Trent: It is over a decade since I have done any work with the Borodins. Consequently, my recollection about sources is very fuzzy. You might look at Survey, October 1964 pp 3-47, Carleton Beals, Glass houses: Ten years of Free lancing, Karl Schmitt, Communism in Mexico, R.Sorich, "Fragments in Biography of M. N. Roy"(Hoover Institution) Have you tried getting a copy of the Trent-Jones marriage license? It might give some information on previous marriages. Sorry I cannot be of more help.

Sincerely,  
Dan N.Jacobs

(Dan N. Jacobs mentioned in his book on "Borodin-Stalin's man" that Roy and Evelyn married in New York Prison. I asked him to give source for this statement)

**Obituary:**

Evelyn T. Jones page 10 Auburn Journal Auburn, Calif, Monday Nov. 23, 1970 Obituaries A memorial service for Evelyn Trent Jones, 78, an Auburn resident since 1909, were conducted Monday at the pioneer Methodist Church. Mrs. Jones, a native of Utah and the daughter of the late T.C. Trent, a gold mine operator in this area years ago, died November 21 in the Auburn Faith Hospital. She was a graduate of Stanford University, a former news paper woman and a retired state social worker. A widow, she is survived by six nephews, Trent Meredith of Camarillo, Diven Merideth of Palm desert, Harold T. Power of Piedmont, Goodwin Trent jr. of Hawaii, John Trent of Alaska and Francis Brown of Walnut Grove; and eight nieces, Marion Reese of Sacramento, Florence Brunkow of Spokane, Wash., Nina Jones of New York State, Mary Bou Martin of Idaho, Peggy Brown of Idaho, Mary Trent Frost of South Carolina, Meta Trent Harris of Los Angeles and Mary Trent of Palos Verdes. Inurnment was in the Auburn District Cemetery. Schumacher's Colonial chapel handled the arrangements.

EVELYN *ALLAS* SHANTI DEVI

LETTERS FROM FRANCIS BROWN TO INNAIAH

Francis Brown  
P. O. Box 674  
Walnut Grove, California 95690  
14 Nov. 1994

Dear Dr. Innaiah

After letters and conversations with my brother, Diven Meredith, regarding your interest in our aunt, Evelyn Jones, I wish to offer any possible help.

My sister Marion Reese, lives in Sacramento and I live 30 miles distant. My sister is 80 years and I am almost 77. We do not drive long distances. We have many fond memories of our "aunt Bam" from the late 30's to her death-including many holiday festivities. We have some "snapshots" of Aunt Bam-and also some family info. If we can be of any help, kindly let us know.

Sincerely  
Francis Brown  
Mrs. Howard E. Reese (Marion)  
916-45th St.  
Sacramento, Ca 95816  
Phone: 916-452-1012  
My phone:  
916-776 1125

(Francis Brown is the daughter of Evelyn's sister)

6 December 1994

Dear Dr. Innaiah,

In response to information you seek on my aunt, Evelyn Jones: She met her husband, Dewitt Jones, I believe while working on a W.P.A.(work Progress Admin.) writer's program. These massive relief programs were instigated by President Franklin Roosevelt during the difficult depression years called "The New Deal" and provided economic help in those hard times. I believe Dewitt Jones was originally from Kansas. He was a sweet, gentle person-very simplistic. We often wondered how and why their marriage seemed so "agreeable"-as they were such different persons, and with different backgrounds.

There were no children from this union. They lived on Calmar St. in Piedmont, CA,-close to her sister Helen Trent Powers. They seemed to enjoy many diverse friends together. After Dewitt died, I think "Bam" decided to move back to an apartment in the old family home in Auburn. This created a schism between Bam and her sister-who was opposed to the move.(I have never understood why) Also-it saddened all family relations. This schism lasted to their deaths-truly sad. Bam worked for 5 years as a state social worker in Auburn.(As someone remarked, Bam seemed to have trouble finding a job as she passed written tests very high -but not the oral tests.)After a fire in her apartment, she bought a simple little home on Luther Road-on the outskirts of Auburn. She seemed very content.

My sister and I would always have Bam for various family celebrations through the years to her death in November 1970. Bam was always wonderful company; articulate, interesting, contemporary in thought. She had a lovely cultured voice and delightful musical laugh-with mirth. Her sometimes liberal attitudes did not always please some of her family males!!!! I often wondered why she was always called "Bam". Her birth given name was Leonora-after father's sister in London. But, she was always known as Evelyn. Perhaps, being the youngest of a large family, her father may have lovingly called her "Bambino". But this is only my speculation.

Now Dr. Innaiah, I have enclosed some pictures and items of interest of Bam-also. I have in my possession:(which you probably have) 1.A copy of chap 2 of "Communism in India" by Windmiller and Overstreet\* of San Fransisco State University-which he sent in Dec. 1980.

2. A small book 228 pages titled "Fragments of A prisoner's Diary"-M. N. Roy Vol. 111-covering letters from jail 8-11-31 to 1-20-36- which I removed at her death. Also, you might check the U. C. Moffitt Library in Berkeley. (I remember M. N. Roy was in its card catalog years ago) Also, the Bancroft Library. Hoping these items and thoughts will help you-and that you will eventually return them to me. Good luck, Francis M. Brown (sorry-no typewriter! No word processor!!)

EVELYN ALLAS SHANTI DEVI

The Jewish National & University Library Department  
of Manuscripts & Archives Albert Einstein Archives Office  
of the Bem Dibner Curator

October 18th, 1994

Dr. Innaiah Nariseti  
17319 Buehler Road  
Olney, MD 20832  
USA

We hereby send you a copy of Einstein's statement concerning M. N. Roy as requested in your letter to us. We hereby grant you permission to publish this statement in your forthcoming book and in your planned article. Please note that our credit line reads as follows: "Permission granted by the Albert Einstein Archives. The Hebrew university of Jerusalem, Israel." We would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article as well as of your forthcoming book upon publication.

Sincerely

Zeev Rosenkranz, Curator copied 1959 from a draft letter addressed to British Authorities in India in behalf of M. N. Roy. 1931 (. date on back of draft) also 1934 file M. N. Roy, in a cultural point of view a valuable personality is threatened by death. In the general interest it is essential that the political fight, inevitable in its way ,avoid the primitive method of extermination. Only in this way the political fight can be benedictful in longer term for the general public.



Tulane  
Latin American Library  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-5682  
(504)865-5681  
Fax (504)865-6773

31 Oct. 1994

Dr. Narisetti Innaiah  
17319 Buehler Road  
Olney, MD 20832

Dear Dr. Innaiah:

I have received your letter of October 21, but I am afraid that I cannot be of any help to you. Our Gates collection contains numerous broadsides, no letters, from the Salvador Alvarado era in Mexico but as far as I can tell from the guide there is no mention of Evelyn Trent in these printed documents, nor have I found any reference to her in the library as a whole. Also I might mention that the collection contains two rather large sets of clippings from Mexican and U.S. Newspapers dated 1917-1919 (folders 59 and 60, cat #1338 and 1340 in oversize box 15). I cannot go through them all to see if there is any mention of Evelyn Trent, but you would certainly be welcome to do so if you should come to New Orleans.

Sincerely  
Ruth R. Olivers  
Curator of Manuscripts

Dum Dum Central Jail  
Calcutta-28(India)  
January 28th, 1966

Mr Robert C. North  
Professor of political science  
Stanford University  
California USA

Dear Professor North,

From the address given above you can see that I am writing to you from a jail. Where I have been incarcerating for the last fifteen months. It is a detention without trial as is in vogue in our country. However I am addressing you for a small favor. I want to know the present address of Mrs. Evelyn Roy, the first wife of M. N. Roy. I heard that after her separation from Roy she moved again and is in America now. Her maiden name was probably Evelyn Trent. I do not know what she is called after her remarriage. Roy first met her within the campus of the Stanford university. I do not know ofcourse whether or not she is one of the graduates of that university. Perhaps it will not be difficult for you to find out her address. (This letter was found in the papers of Evelyn Trent in Hoover Institute forwarded by Robert C. North to her)

Meeting and interview with Diven Meredith on 5 January, 1994 Mr Kris Gogineni (G V K Rao) and his son in law, Mr Mohan were present. Mr Mohan video recorded the interview. Diven is in his 80~s and still

playing golf and working on computer. He visited India in 1978. He married second time and his wife accompanied him to India. Diven told me about his grand father Mr Lamartine and gave the diary of Mr Lamartine Trent (about his Japan tour as mining engineer in 1889-before the birth of Evelyn) Diven told me that Evelyn was honest and true to word. She was very pleasant. M. N. Roy treated her very brutally according to Charlette Kett. the American Red Cross worker between two world wars. Diven met Kett accidentally as a house neighbor in a small town, Caramel in California city. Kett was a family friend of Trent family. Evelyn might have told Kett about her plight. Diven also told me that there was no proof for his statement and the statement of Kett too might have originated from heresy. Diven told me that Dewitt Jones, the second husband of Evelyn used to call her as "Shanti Devi", since she wrote articles with that name during her communist phase. According to Diven, Mrs. Evelyn rode a car. He said that his family concealed about the early marriage of Evelyn and thus kept them in dark. Evelyn's communism was also a taboo in the family. Helen Power, sister of Evelyn thought that communists whether of the past or present belongs to the same metal. Diven was in touch with Mr. Marshall who wrote "Communism in India". Diven shown me the burnt papers of his grandpa and Evelyn(1962 fire accident in Auburn apartment)He confessed that he handed over all the remaining papers of Evelyn were handed over to Hoover Institute in Stanford University. I saw some photos of Evelyn, Lamartine Trent during the interview.

Nathaniel Weyl  
3434 Oakwood Terrace  
N. W. Washington 10 D.C. Adams 2-7229

April 18, 1961

Mrs. Evelyn Roy  
c/o Dr. Robert C. North  
Political science dept.  
Stanford university  
Stanford California

Dear Mrs. Roy:

My wife and I are doing a history of the communist movement in Latin America under the auspices of the Reim Foundation. In this connection, I read with great interest the autobiographical articles of your late husband, M. N. Roy, which appeared in the Radical Humanist of Calcutta. As you probably know, Roy states that when he was in Mexico he organized the communist party with funds given him by the intelligence organizations of Imperial Germany. He describes secret meetings with then president Carranza in which the Mexican chief executive agreed to assist Roy in his anti-imperialist work and to make the Mexican consulates in Latin America available to Roy for courier purposes. Roy also claims that he recruited Calles into his Socialist Party, that he was responsible for getting Calles into the Mexican cabinet and that Calles kept his Socialist party membership card for at least for a decade after these events. I have thus far been unable to get any confirmation or critical

evaluation of these claims. What is puzzling me is that Roy should have been able to build a communist party with this amount of prestige and power which nevertheless, practically vanished when he left Mexico. I have talked to the late Lewis Corey and to Bertram Wolfe, both of whom were active in the leadership of Mexican communist movement shortly after 1922. It seemed plain that the communist groups that were working with them were sectarian, powerless and devoid of political influence. I understand from Dr. North that you wish to remain completely anonymous and I can appreciate that desire. There is no reason that your name need appear in the book which my wife and I were preparing. If you would simply write me giving your evaluation of Roy's political activities in Mexico, particularly with reference to Carranza and Calles, I will use this evaluation without identifying you as the source. There is no need for you to put your address or, for that matter, your present name (if you have remarried ) on the letter. I do not think that we need have any correspondence on this matter beyond this letter to you and I trust , Your reply to it.

Very sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Weyl

Emergency committee of Atomic Scientists  
incorporated  
room 28 ,90 Nassau street  
Princeton, New Jersey

Trustees  
Albert Einstein  
Chairman

April 29,1947

Dear friend,

On behalf of my colleagues of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, I send sincere thanks for your generous answer to my letter asking for your help in the great educational task we have undertaken. We value not only the practical support you have sent, but also the good will towards this work and the hope for a reasonable solution of this immense problem which your contribution expresses.

Faithfully yours,

A. Einstein.

Letters of Evelyn Trent to Dr. David Starr Jordan

Sept. 22, 1929

My dear Dr. Jordan,

News of your illness and subsequent rally reached us in the midst of preparations to leave California for New York Where I intend to stay for some time in an effort to do something more serious in the writing line than I have so far attempted. This explains my tardiness in writing to express sympathy and joy in your at least partial recovery, and the hope for your eventful complete restoration to health and strength. I am spending the last few weeks with my parents in their old home at Auburn and both they and I send our best wishes to you and Mrs. Jordan, with sincerest hopes for your speedy recovery. It is harder to leave California than I had thought it would be- doubly so, after having returned home after so long an absence.

Faithfully yours,

Evelyn Trent  
Auburn, Calif

Dr. David Starr Jordan,  
1417 Crown Hill Ave  
Stanford University  
Los Angeles, Calif  
Calif

August 31st, 1916

My dear Dr. Jordan,

You will not recall the writer by name, but at various times when our paths have crossed momentarily, you have been so very kind in your remembrance of me as one of your students, that I dare address you personally in a request rather vital in its nature. Ever since the outbreak of the European war, it has been my purpose and intention to go abroad to study conditions there and eventually, right up certain features of my investigation. All my plans for the past two years have been directed towards this end, and now I find the time and opportunity to go with no obstacles, but the matter of obtaining a passport. That is no small matter in these troubled times and I thought perhaps your recommendation and that of the university of which I am a graduate, would enable me to obtain it more easily and speedily. I dare to presume that I may obtain such recommendation, both by yours and Mrs. Jordan's knowledge of my earnestness of purpose and desire, and by an investigation of such steadfastness of character as I may have left upon my university in the minds of those who knew me there. You will find that I was a graduate at the class in 1916 January majoring English and doing some writing among other college activities, while there. Since I have been out I have continued to study and write for various newspapers on economic questions chiefly unemployment-at the same time I have been pursuing various callings-advertising and teaching being the chief at any time I can earn my living on a commercial footing, but having demonstrating that I



desire to use my means and leisure towards the real end of education to me living and writing. You will pardon this resume of my past given for your better information of me you will not recall clearly among the myriads who claim your friendship but a mutual friend of ours, Mrs Mukherji, with whom I had the honor to call on Mrs. Jordan, may say a word on my behalf. I am going to New York to visit my brother, Walter Trent also a student of Stanford, then take boat for Scandinavia, thence to Poland and as many of the belligerent countries as I can be permitted to enter. I shall be ready to leave Los Angeles at any time after hearing from you and will come to Stanford if necessary. I only wait for a passport to start abroad at once. Trusting you will find it your power and inclination to favor me in the matter, and, utter sincerest acknowledgments for your courtesy in thus permitting me to encroach upon your leisure, I beg to remain.

Respectfully and faithfully yours, .  
Evelyn Trent

Dear Mrs. Jones:

I trust all is well with you. My family and I have been away for almost a year and a half most of this period having been spent in Italy. Mr Muzaffar Ahmed has written me asking for your address. My reply was that I could not provide him with the information he wanted without breaching a trust, but that I would forward the request directly to you.

With personal best wishes,

Sincerely yours,  
Robert C. North  
Professor of Political Science

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Dr. David Starr Jordan  
Stanford University Calif

My dear Dr. Jordan,

Permit me to express my deep appreciation for your letter of recommendation, which I had the honor to receive. It reached me after I had entered my application for a passport but if the department of state does not need it I will treasure it always as part of my obligation to Stanford, the ideals which you have embodied therein.

Very respectfully yours,  
Evelyn Trent

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Feb. 10, 1966

Mrs. Evelyn T. Jones  
353 Linden Avenue  
Auburn, California

Dear Mrs. Jones:

I trust all is well with you. My family and I have been away for almost a year and a half most of this period having been spent in Italy.

Mr Muzaffar Ahmed has written me asking for your address. My reply was that I could not provide him with the information he wanted without breaching a trust, but that I would forward the request directly to you.

With personal best wishes,

Sincerely yours,  
Robert C. North  
Professor of political Science

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Auburn, Calif.

Feb. 15, 1966

Dear Mr. North:

Thank you for your note, with enclosure. The name is unfamiliar to me and I see no reason for his attempting to contact me. Three years ago I was burned out of my apartment and am in retirement elsewhere. I receive all mail to the above address, which is confidential to you. The property where I lived belonged to our family and is being sold and the proceeds, if any, distributed to the heirs, of which there are many.

I trust you enjoyed your stay in Italy. Please continue to observe discretion in replying to any queries concerning me.

Thanking you, and with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn's letter to Richard L. Park

Auburn, Calif.

June 8, 1956

Richard L. Park

Institute of East Asiatic Studies

University of California,

Calif.

Richard:

Enclosed herewith is the ms. sent to me, with-  
factual, or violated the expressed agreements for making  
any suggestions and corrections, would not be mentioned,  
either as participant.....

A great deal of careful research seems to have  
done by the authors, but unfortunately some of the sources  
are questionable. Simply because something appears in print  
does not make it authentic! I could quote many examples of  
this, but will content myself with only a few of the more  
glaring: E. R. Roy did not meet his wife at Stanford; they  
did not go to New York together, they were not married in  
jail (Chakravarty perfervid imagination) She was never  
arrested in New York nor did he post bail, her father did  
not prefer charges against him, etc., etc. May I add that  
Mrs. R. Did not represent India on colonial commission,  
nor was member of it, and that she was not present at the  
third congress, which would make it impossible for her to  
have written the letter quoted "from Moscow". I believe it  
would be better, rather than lay the authors open to the  
charge of making rather wild guesses, to omit all references

to her as stipulated. For the rest, I find many errors of interpretation in this chapter, too numerous to go into here, chiefly on the subject of R's role as a framer of the Supplementary Theses, of his reception and standing among the Russian Leaders, of his relations with Chattopadhyaya and his group, and in general of the interpretation of the very considerable role played in placing the Indian Revolutionary movement on an intellectual basis, he being the first to dignify it with a philosophy and a literature, which became widely recognized and accepted in India. For this he should be admired, rather than vilified. Admittedly, he had to pass through many evolutionary phases in his own development, but at least he had the capacity to learn! I find tendency to accept without question, the accounts of the British police representative, Lt. Col. Kaye, who admittedly, would be far from impartial in his estimates. As you are a professed friend of Roy, I feel sure you would not wish to do his memory a disservice by unkind interpretations of his integrity and sincerity at the time he played a part for the development of the Indian Revolutionary movement. It would shock to his Indian admirers to read some of the interpretations embodied in this chapter. (after the second page is missing in the papers. This letter also was partly damaged at the edges.

EVELYN *ALLAS* SHANTI DEVI

EVELYN's LETTERS TO ROBERT C. NORTH

Auburn, Calif.

March 7, 1960

Dear Mr. North:

Please pardon the long delay in returning your ms., which I have read twice, with great interest. You have done an excellent and sympathetic job and have succeeded in retaining the human qualities of your subject without losing them in the arid desert of research.

There seems to be nothing I can add or subtract from your presentation, which as far as I know, is factually correct, from the parts I have read. I might tell you a few anecdotes, but they would merely be a foot-note to history and might well be superfluous!

I did not want to write you until I had read the book you sent, which I have at last done, at least the essential parts. It is careful job of research, with some slip-ups here and there, with no interpretation of the facts presented and no understanding of the personalities involved, or of their actions and motivations. It will never be anything more than another reference book containing the same mistakes as the others, because derived from the same source materials. The best one can say of it is that it is painstaking and represents a lot of work.



As I read these scholarly tomes, I wonder which is more exhausting, to have lived through some of these experiences, or to have done the research to write about them. I do thank you for sending it to me however , and for your thoughtfulness in general. I feel sure that your book, when it is published will add something new and different to the growing volumes of material on this subject.

By the way Windmiller came up here on a speaking engagement and I had the opportunity of looking him over and listening without his being aware of his audience I am glad some instinct prompted me not to meet him.

I am a night course in connection with my work, which limits my time somewhat and is a drain on my energy, hence the delay in writing you. I am sorry I cannot be more useful. With thanks and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Robert C. North's letters to Evelyn

February 24, 1958

Mrs. Evelyn T. Jones  
353 Linden Ave.,  
Auburn, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Jones:

It is quite possible that Ellen suggested to Mr Ray that he get in touch with you. As editor of The Radical Humanist he is closely associated with her. I have never met him but he does propose to spend about two weeks here during March. Probably he is interested in gathering materials on MN should not think that you would have to see him if you don't wish to. I have received a grant to visit Tashkent and other places this summer and shall write you more about this later.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,  
Robert C. North

Stanford University  
Stanford, California  
International studies committee  
Political science dept.

March 10, 1959

Mrs. Evelyn T. Jones  
353 Linden Avenue  
Auburn, California

Dear Mrs. Jones:

I have been asked to review communism in India for the Journal of Asian Studies. My space will be limited, but if there are any points you would like to call specifically to my attention, please do drop me a note.

Also, I am reading a paper next month before the Far Western Slavic Conference, and in this connection I shall be paying particular attention to these two themes:

1. Roy's attitude toward the bourgeoisie during the period 1920-1926: and (2) Roy's growing concern with industrialization in India and the probable emergence of dominion status. I am not at all satisfied with the argument in Windmiller and Overstreet, pp. 114-121 and 130-133. My impression is that Moscow had shifted, rather than Roy, but to develop my case I want to follow his thought (1920-1929) on (1) the bourgeoisie and (2) industrialization in India. Did events in India during

EVELYN *ALLAS* SHANTI DEVI

1920-1922 influence him strongly, and if so, how? See, for example p.133 of Windmiller and Overstreet, lines 3-5.

Any light you can throw on these matters I shall deeply appreciate. Mr Windmiller will be on the panel when I read my paper. As always, of course, I shall keep you carefully shielded.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. North  
Associate professor in  
Political science

South Asian Studies

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Asit Sen's letter to Evelyn Trent

Renaissance Publishers Ltd.  
15 Bankim Chatterjee Street  
Calcutta 12: Post Box 2636

September 14, 1954

Mrs. Evelyn T. Jones  
353 Linden Avenue  
Auburn, Calif.  
USA

Dear Mrs. Jones:

In July last we sent to you under registered book packet one copy each of Roy's "New-Orientation" and "My Experience In China". We hope you have received the same by this time.

We also understand that you intend to place an order for all the issues of our Quarterly journals, The Marxian Way and The Humanist Way( same journal with the changed name),the publication of which has been ceased with the demise of M. N. Roy, who was its editor since its inception. However, all the back issues of this journal are available, with the exception only vol.1. There were altogether four volumes and issue of this journal published, priced at \$3.00 per volume, and \$ .75 per issue. We shall be obliged to know if we should send these all to you.

EVELYN *ALLAS* SHANTI DEVI

You please note that our present bill has been met  
from your credit balance left with us.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
Asit Sen  
Manager  
Renaissance publishers ltd.

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

REPLY OF EVELYN TO ASIT SEN

353 Linden Ave.,  
Auburn, Calif. USA.  
Sept.26, 1954

Mr Asit Sen, Manager,  
Renaissance Publishers Ltd.,  
15 Bankim Chatter St.,  
Calcutta 12. P.O. Box 2636 India

Dear Mr Sen:

Your air letter of Sept. 14th reached me last week and I have not been able to reply until now due to illness.

Regarding your query as to receipt of books, I thought I had already acknowledged receiving "New Orientation" and "My Experience in China".

I have never placed an order for back issues of "The Humanist Way", quarterly publication now discontinued. At one time I did express a desire too see a current issue to decide whether or not to subscribe, but when I was informed it had been discontinued , I informed Mrs. Roy that I did not desire to order any back numbers to be sent to me.

Currently, the only book I have on order is one copy of the Memorial volume when and if it is published

this fall. All other books ordered by me have been received and I do not desire to order any others at present.

I am receiving the " Radical Humanist" weekly, and wish to continue my subscription to it only as long as the Memoirs of M. N. Roy are being published therein. When these cease, I would like my subscription to terminate., and in any case, not later than the end of this year.

Hoping this clears up any misunderstandings that may have arisen as to publications I have and have not ordered, and with thanks for your courtesy in filling my orders to date.

I remain.

Very truly yours.

---

Agabekov Georges  
The Russian secret terror  
tr from French Henry W. bunn  
New York : Brentano~s 1931 pp 192

"The first intimation of bad faith of the Indian Communist Roy came through Farouki. He suggested that Roy's wife being an English woman, might be an English spy. When the suspicion was confirmed, Roy was separated from all political activity."

( Agabekov was former chief of the Eastern section. His charge against Evelyn as he quoted Farouki, was not supported with any evidence later.)



EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

San Fransisco state university  
1600 Holloway avenue, San Fransisco California  
94132 international Relations program

Mrs. Howard E. Resse  
916 45th St.,  
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Mrs. Reese:

I am enclosing a copy of chapter of 2 of COMMUNISM IN INDIA and a few additional pages which mention Evelyn Trent Roy. I hope you find them interesting.

I appreciate the information you gave me on the telephone and should I uncover enough additional data to merit an article on Mrs. Jones, I shall send you a copy.

Meanwhile, if you should find any letters or other materials relating to her political career, I would very much like to have access to them.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,  
Marshall Windmiller

## CERTIFICATE OF DEATH OF EVELYN TRENT

This is to certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the vital record which is on file in this office and of which I am the legal custodian.

Jordan E Sech MD

Local registrar and county Health Officer

Auburn, California Date Nov. 25 1970

---

## CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Evelyn Trent Jones 11.21.70 4.55 a.m.(death) Female  
Caucasian Salt lake city, Utah 10.20.92(birth) 78 Lamartine  
Trent(father) England, Mary DeLome McLeod(Mother)  
Florida USA(citizen) 545-20-6632(social security number)  
Widowed N/A ( Name of the surviving member) Social  
worker 5 years State of California Welfare Auburn faith  
hospital(death) Highway 49 Not inside city

Rural Auburn, Placer county 21 Years stay,  
50 years in California state, Luther road (residence)  
not inside city, Mrs. Howard Reese (niece)  
467 \$67 Crocher Road, Sacramento, Calif. 95825  
11.17.70 to 11.21.70(hospital) 11.20.70(died)  
1212 High street physician address C 19979  
cremation 11.23.70 Sierra View Memorial Park (cemetery)  
Schumachers colonial chapel (funeral director)  
Gordon E. Seck (local registrar)  
small intestine sanzrene six days  
5 years ago arteriosclerosis

**Sibnarayan's letter to Evelyn**

Prof. S. N. Ray  
Head of the dept. of English,  
S.I .E.S college  
Sion West, Bombay-22  
5th January, 1963

Dear Mrs. Jones,

I am very distressed to read your letter of December 18th. It must be terribly upsetting to have to leave one's home when one was looking for a hard-earned rest. I very much hope that the present temporary arrangements will be over soon and that you will be able to settle down in your rebuilt house without much delay.

You should not think that I am the only one in this country who remembers your important role in the struggle for Indian Independence during the 20s. I myself belong to the younger generation of Radicals, but there are still quite a few of the old guard of our movement who came into Radical politics in the early 20s through the joint efforts of Roy and yourself. In the archives of the Institute we have, I believe, copies of some of your early writings. In any case, I have heard enough about you from Roy and Ellen and some of my older colleagues to know that you did play a very important part in this struggle in your youth. However there is no one living today who can write the inside story of that period with greater authority. I, therefore, very much look forward to the day when you find the necessary time and composure of mind

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

to write down your recollections of that brave period. If there is any material that you need from India, you have only to let me know and I shall be only glad to forward the same to you.

Sometime in the last week of March, I plan to leave Bombay and to Melbourne as a Visiting Professor. My address there for the rest of the year will be care of The Department of Indian Studies, University of Melbourne, Parkville, N 2 Victoria, Australia.

With very best wishes of the New Year,

Yours sincerely,  
Sibnarayan Ray

Handing over Evelyn's papers to Hoover Institute

August 15, 1971

The Hoover Institute and Library  
on War, Revolution and Peace  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California  
Gentlemen:

Reference is made to a series of communications and visits made by Robert C. North of your organization, and Evelyn Trent Jones, during the period from 1957 through the 1960s. The principal subject being the recollections and memorabilia of Mrs. Jones's marriage to M. N. Roy.

Mrs. Jones (my aunt) passed away in November 1970 and her personal papers dealing with this period have come into my possession. No will was left directing the disposition of these papers, and it is my decision that they should now be placed in your hands, without constraints or obligation, for whatever historical value you may find in them.

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Please advise if you desire these papers and instructions as to their transmittal. The collection is contained in two cartons, total weight about 50 pounds. It consists of a number of books, periodicals and private correspondence (originals only). It has not been copied or offered elsewhere; it remains much as they were when in Mrs. Jone's possession.

Very truly yours,  
Diven Meredith  
35-C Sandpiper  
Palm Desert, Calif 92260

EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

Hoover Institution

17 August 1971

Miss Diven Meredith  
35-c Sand Piper  
Palm Desert, California 92260

Dear Miss Meredith:

Thank you for your good letter of August 15. We are pleased indeed that you have decided to deposit the papers of your late aunt, Mrs. Evelyn Trent Jones, with the Hoover Institution. I am sure that these very important materials will prove of great interest for scholars over many years to come.

May I suggest that you ship the papers at your convenience via Railway Express or by means of moving and storage firm, such as Bekins or Allied VanLines. The materials should be sent collect as we will, of course, pay for all packing and shipping costs.

I hope we may have the pleasure of welcoming you at the Hoover Institution on your next visit to northern California.

Best wishes and,

Respectfully yours,  
Richard F. Star  
Associate Director

EVELYN *ALLAS* SHANTI DEVI

Mr Diven Meredith  
35-C Sand Piper  
Palm Desert, Calif. 92260

Dear Mr. Meredith:

The papers which you so kindly donated to the Hoover Institution arrived here several days ago in good order, and they have been accessioned under the name of your late aunt, Mrs Evelyn Trent Jones.

May I take this occasion to thank you for making these materials available to us.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours  
Franz G. Lassner  
Director of Archives

---

Files in Evelyn Trent in National Archives, Washington D.C.  
9771-B-41 WAR DEPARTMENT FILES  
Memorandum for file

Elena Torres received a letter from Evelyn Roy from Petrograd in which the Russian Situation is drawn with enthusiastic colors. In this she says that Roy is writing to me, but up to date I have received nothing and I tried to get Elena to give me the letter so that I may copy and it in. The letter came by way of Esthonia.  
(Number 1777, Mexico city Aug. 8, 1920, 10058-0-3 p56)



EVELYN ALIAS SHANTI DEVI

The American Legation  
Office of the Military Attache  
The Hague, Netherlands

January 20, 1922

to: A.C. of S., G-2

Subject: Mrs. Helen B. Allen alias Evelyn Nath Roy

The following from British source is submitted  
to you for information.:

"The above names who is stated to have been born at Chicago in 1894, arrived at Dover from Reval on 21/5/21 when she was traveling on Mexican passport in the name of ALLEN.

Russia she appears to have passed as the wife of Mahendra Nath Roy. She is also known to have acted as messenger from Moscow to a communist in this country and to have been working for the Indian Revolutionary Party.

She was recognized by the Mexican Consul as a Mexican subject and sailed for Vera Cruz from Plymouth under a Deportation order on 11.6.1921.

James B. Ord  
Major Gen. Staff, Military

Attache

file 10058-1180

Information has been received that a certain W.R. Kasper, an Estonian in Reval, and a known communist, is in close touch with Michael LVOVITCH GOBERMANN, A MEMBER of the Soviet delegation in Reval. He is apparently an outside agent for the Delegation, receiving communists from other countries and conducting correspondence. On June 30th he sent the following telegrams to the United States:

Telegram No.5858.11.50 a.,30.6.21  
To Helen Power, Wistaria Way, Piedmont, California,  
USA "10th June Evelyn left London for Mexico.

Communicate with her through our friend Marcelle Boudin P.C.B.1355 Mexico D.F. She is traveling alone and must be taken care of.

Her account transferred to New York. You will be duly informed by the banker.

Rob:

Telegram no 5857,11.40 a.m. 30.6.21  
To: Menbroson, Montreal.  
"Inform Yakhi that Mrs. Allen left London  
June 10th for Mexico.  
She is in bad health. Give her assistance.  
B. and B.Co

Telegram No 5862. 12.60 a.m. 30.6.21  
To: Valodes, Aveniava San -Anvel,

96, Mixcoac, Mexico D.F.

"Mrs. Allen left London June 10th for Mexico. Her health is bad. Look out for her, and take care of her. Communicate New York

if necessary." Ramirez."

All the above telegrams were sent by W.E. Kasper, S. Kompasna Tan 27-5. Actilagraamisiga. Ore.(?) S.A. Schnider.

Evelyn and Mrs. Allen is the wife of Mahendra Nath Roy, who was found to be staying in London and who was sent out of the country as stated in the telegram. The references to the lady's health are probably metaphoric and signify that the authorities are watching her. Ramirez, who signs the last telegrams, is doubtless the Mexican representative to the Third International in Moscow.

We should be glad of any information that you could let us have about the individuals mentioned. There is also reason to believe that Michael Governmann receives correspondence from revolutionaries at the Hotel Petrograd, Reval.

Note by Innaiah : Reval is now called Tallinn.

File 61-10 61-5864

Investigation in Washington, D.C. discloses that Mrs. Lamartine C. Trent does not reside in Washington. May be living in Philadelphia. Office there requested to locate.

Pending.

Details:

Reference is made to Bureau memorandum dated October 5, 1925, to which is attached enclosures No. 38229, the same being a copy of a letter received by this Department from the Department of State requesting that investigation be made with a view to determining whether or not Mrs. Mahendra Nath Roy (nee Evelyn Trent) is at present visiting her mother Mrs. L. C. Trent, supposed to be residing at 1209 Lamont Street, N. W. Washington D.C.

The State departments letter states that Mrs. Roy left Paris, France, on July 30, last, bound for the United States, and the presumption is that she intended to visit her mother when she arrived in this country. Mrs. Roy as will be recalled, married Mahendranath Roy years ago when she a student at the Leland Stanford University in California and thereafter she travelled in various countries of the world, carrying on Indian radical activities.

Mrs. Lamartine C. Trent moved from 1209 Lemont St. N.W. in April, 1922, taking up her residence at 3420 16th St N. W Washington D.C. After a brief residence at the latter place, she moved to Front Royal, Va. and lived there for a considerable time. This office covered her mail during the time she was a resident of FroRoyal Va. which did not develop that she was in correspondence with her daughter Evelyn. Recent inquiry made of the postmaster at Front Royal, Va. Mr S. G. Allen, discloses that when Mrs. Trent left Front Royal, Va., she left with the Postmaster at that place 61-5864-2

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File in War Department of National  
Archives, Washington D.C. 61-5864-9  
closed

Mrs. Mahendranath Roy located. Matter referred by Bureau Immigration Department which is now investigating with the view of deportation.

Closed Details

Reference is made to file , particularly to this Agent's report for October 10, 1925, wherein it is suggested that Mrs. Roy probably entered the country illegally, therefore is subject to deportation.

Agent has been informed by Immigration Inspector Howell that this matter has been referred to his department and that investigation is now being made to determine how Mrs. Roy entered the country and whether such entry was legal.

Since Agent's last report, it has been ascertained that Mrs. Roy has moved from 101 Wisteria Way, Piedmont,(Oakland) to 1400-36th Street Sacramento. The latter is the address of Mrs. J. D. Meredith, a sister of Mrs. Roy. Information has also been received that Mrs. Roy has been in Madera and that she is supposed to be agitating among the Indians in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. The mother of Mrs. Roy is said to live in Idaho, address unknown. Mrs. Helen Trent power, another sister is employed at the Site Employment Bureau, Oakland, residence 101 Wisteria Way, Piedmont. The Department of Immigration is advised of these facts and will keep Agent advised of such action as may be taken in Mrs. Roy's case.

As the instructions to this office were to locate Mrs. Roy which has been done, and as the matter is now being handled by the department Immigration, case is closed.

Evelyn's letter to her mother from Stanford University

July 15, 1911

My dearest mother,

Yesterday was so full that I couldn't find a moment to write in the morning one of our friends from the University came to play tennis with us and stayed to breakfast after, and to talk until half past eleven. I had to deliver her safely into the arms of her chaperones and then came home to glance at the papers and change my clothes. in the afternoon husband talked Bengali with me for two hours, or rather I struggled to understand what he was saying, then an avalanche of people arrived to see our new house-our Suffragista, her old aunt, a Mexican poet and a journalist, each wearing frock coats and red carnations and looking portentiously solemn. We discussed Tagore, who is being translated into Spanish and whom they are enthusiastic about, had tea, and after more conversation they streamed out about half past seven, the poet and journalist casting themselves alternately at my feet en route, figuratively of course. Leave taking in Mexico is a very elaborate affair, and there is a most precise formula to be gone through with, hastily and mechanically to their fellow-countrymen, but to strangers they seem to say it with renewed relish. As they shake your hand, man or woman, they say, "I am very pleased to have met you-as such and such a number, street so and so, I await your orders, there is your home". And meanwhile you are saying the same thing as nearly as possible in halting Spanish.

Then to a Dama they proceed further and say, Senora, I am at your feet-then with many low bows and "with your permission" they are gone. This from everyone with gradations of polish but the same high level of courtesy down to the dirtiest peon, who assures you that "aqui tiene usted su casa". It is a tremendous revival, or survival, of the of chivalry, and makes us anglo-saxons look and feel terribly rough and crude.

This morning I started to give some lessons in reading and writing to young Isabella who used to work for me in the other house, her sister eleven years old, a muchacho who chases tennis balls for us most faithfully every day and our maid, who came at the last moment and asked in an embarrassed whisper if she might listen to the class as she neither read nor write. So I have four, from six to twenty years old, all sitting in rapt attention, and laboriously scrawling their first letters. I meant to give them an hour a day, but today it slipped over to two hours, without my knowing it. They fairly cry for help, and its not a question of lack of schools, for they are going full blast, the teachers even working through the revolution without salaries, and only two months have been lost in all these eight years. I met two last week, and they are so fine, but they cannot admit children in the middle of the term, as it retards the others, and sad that many children did not come despite every thing being given them free to learn, because they were ashamed of their clothes. It is the case with these three tots I have, I know and what a great pity. The teachers said there was a fund to give old clothes and breakfast to those that needed it, to which the children themselves contributed what they could afford.



So many things are going on for good here, with a fine spirit of self sacrifice that speaks for the ultimate regeneration of the country, but what a pity it can not get the money it needs so desperately with all the millions pouring over to be spent on munitions and all the horrors of war.

We are so well and happy in our adorable house, and will try to get some good pictures of it to send you. Heaps of love to you and dearest Daddy and all at home, hoping you are well and happy also.

Bam

EVELYN'S LETTER TO HER SISTER'S SON ABOUT  
HER FAMILY

SEPT.23, 1963

Dear Stanford:

Your mother wrote me you are interested in learning something about your grandparents on the maternal side, and I will tell you rather briefly a few facts about their lives. My father and great grandfather, was born in London ,England on Dec. 3,1848 and was named Lamartine Cavaignac Trent, after the French poet Lamartine and French general Cavaignac, both of whom were famous at that time as leaders of the French revolution. "Mart" as he was called, and later, "L. C."was one of a family of nine children, whose father died when he was quite young, leaving his mother a widow. She had a hard time and her young son wanted to help her, so he was apprenticed to the master of a sailing vessel as a cabin boy and shipped out for the United States when he was only about 11 years old. It took three months to make the voyage and when he arrived in Boston Harbor he jumped ship and hid in a tree all night so the ships officers would not find him. Next day, he was found by two elderly ladies who took him home, fed and cared for him and sent him to school. He stayed with them several months and then was

lonesome for his mother and shipped back to England again as a cabin boy. He told many stories of the hardship of life aboard ship in those days and how brutal the sailors and officers were. He stayed with his mother and brothers and sisters for a while then decided there was no future for him in England and returned to the United States when he was about 15. He worked for a while on railways and in the mines, then enlisted as a drummer boy in the Union army during the civil war. He took part in several great battles was wounded in the leg and finally was mustered out with a \$300 bonus, which gave him a start in life. He worked in the copper mines around Lake Superior, went west to Montana and Colorado and met his future wife, Mary DeLome McLeod, who was living with her family in Boulder, Colorado.

The McLeods were of Scotch origin , coming originally from the Island of Skye and settling in Florida, where my mother was born. Her father was a doctor and her mother's name was Mary Hollingsworth McLeod. Mother was born in Madison, Florida and had three sisters, Fannie, Sally and Madge, and one brother, Hollingeworth. Her birthday was August 20, 1858 and she could remember the slaves, her negro mammy and the Civil War. They came west to Colorado when she was about 16 and she used to tell us about the great herds of buffalo that would cross the railway track, forcing the train to stop and wait until they passed by. Young Mart Trent, who was now a promising mining engineer , saw her on the street one day and fell in love with her, found someone to introduce him and they were married on June 5, 1878 in Boulder, Colorado, soon going to live in a two-storey log cabin built especially for them at the Belmont Mine in Marysville, Montana, where my father became-manager. Here the two oldest children were born-Inez Vaughan Trent who later married Bertram Stetson Varien and Leila DeLome Trent, your grand mother, who married James Diven Meredith. There were eight children in all, Lamartine C. Trent Jr., Walter Edwin Trent, Frances Helen Trent, Goodwin Murray Trent, Florence Margueritea Trent and Leonora Evelyn.

The name Vaughan is an English family name, one of my father's brothers was named Simeon Vaughan Trent and he also came to this country and for awhile, was in the mining machinery business with my father in Salt Lake city, Utah. An English aunt, Leonora, also came to live with us in Salt Lake and I was named after her. We called her aunt Leo, but in England they called her aunt Nora. She was a dear soul and used to recite reams of poetry to us, which I still remember. She had black hair and dark eyes and looked quite Spanish and she told me there was a legend that one of the ladies of the royal court was married to a Trent and became an ancestor of ours. While Trent was an English name and there is a family of Trents well-known in Virginia, the family may originally have been Austrian or Italian. My father's eldest brother was named Innocent Edwin, after Pope Innocent, and was always

called Uncle Inno. He was a fine, handsome man and was married to Aunt Maria, they had nine children, most of whom are living in England today. When Aunt Daisy (Inez) and your grandmother Leila went to England in the early 1900's they visited with and met all the Trents over there and became good friends. My father crossed the Atlantic nineteen times and the Pacific twice during his lifetime, he went to see his mother and on business to England and the continent, and was sent to Japan about 1892 to explore the copper mines in the interior of the country, at a time when very few white men had visited there. He wrote a diary about that trip, which lasted six months, and we should have a copy somewhere if I can find it. Most of my papers were burned during the fire in my apartment last December but I may have a copy. Only two of the Trent children are still living, myself and Aunt Toots (Helen) but you have many cousins scattered around the country, Uncle Buster (Goodwin) had five children, all living and all are married with children of their own. Aunt Daisy had four children, one son was an aviator killed in World War 11 and the other son, Charles (Chick) died several years ago, leaving two daughters,, both married and living in Boise, Idaho. Aunt Daisy's daughters, Florance Brunkow and Nina Varian ones are both living, Nina is in New York and has three children , Florence is a widow and has one married daughter. Aunt Toots (Helen) has two children , Harold and Helen. She lives in Piedmont, Calif.

This is only an outline of our family, but it will give you a general idea and if you want to know more, let me know. Hoping to see you soon, dear Stanford, and do come to see me when you can in my new home near Auburn, as I am now retired and have more time to share then when I working. There is good hunting and fishing in the mountains nearby. With love to you and all the children and to your father and mother,

Affectionately,

Aunt Bam

P.S. I have some family photographs you may like to see. (Note: The diary of Lamartine Trent about his Japan tour was given to me by Diven Meredith--Innaiah)

#### EVELYN AS FOUNDER MEMBER OF EXILE INDIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Formation of the Communist Party of India at Tashkent Minutes of the meeting held at Tashkent on 17.10.1920. The Communist Party of India at Tashkent on 17 October 1920 consists of the following members: (1) M. N. Roy (2) Evelyn Trent Roy (3) A. N. Mukherji (4) Rosa Fitingov (5) Mohd. Ali (Ahmed Hasan) (6) Mohd. Shafiq Siddiqi (7) Acharya (M. Prativadi Bhayankar). Comrade Shafiq is elected as secretary.

The Indian Communist party adopts principles proclaimed by the Third International and undertakes to work out a programme suited to the conditions in India.

Seal

Chairman: M. Acharya

Secretary: Roy

. EVELYN ALLAS SHANTI DEVI

EVELYN AS DIRECTOR OF "FRIENDS OF INDIA" IN  
MEXICO

War department file No 9771-B-41    March 6, 1919  
National Archives, Washington D.C.

My dear Mr Merton:

I have received from the Military Sttsvhr of Mexico the following pamphlets written by Mahendranath Roy:

El Camine Para La Pas Duradera Del Munde  
India, Itspast, present and future.  
The voice of India.

These pamphlets are all written in Spanish and give a history of the Indian Empire and have the usual cant about ill-treatment by the British. They are very cleverly written, and carefully avoid any suggestion of an alliance with Germany.

You may have copies of these pamphlets in your files, but if you have not, please let me know and I will endeavor to secure additional copies from the Military attache in Mexico. One of the pamphlets gives the general basis of the International League, "Friends of India", and among the names of the officers are the following:



Evelyn Roy and Manabendra Nath Roy”:

Directors

President's name is left blank.

Sra. Lic Maria Sandoval de Zarce and

Sr.Lic.Enrique Guardiola: Vice presidents.

Srta.Profra.Julia Alonsa, Sr.Jose Antonio Garro

Sr. Efraim Velasco and Dr. Delfine Rojano-

speakers

Prof. Jose G. Montes de Oca and Sr. Nicolas Marin-  
Secretaries, and the address given in Ap. Postal ,  
1056, Mexico, D.F.

This new spelling of Roy's name is different from that  
of any I have noticed before.

Very truly yours,  
J. M. Dunn  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Acting director of Military Intelligence.

Evelyn Trent reacts for the arrest of M. N. Roy

M.N.Roy was arrested in India during 1931 and  
immediately Evelyn Trent wrote an article in the  
Revolutionary Age, New York.

India's struggle for Freedom  
M. N. ROY AND INDIAN COMMUNISM  
by E.R.

October 30, 1931

On July 1931, Manabendra Nath Roy, Indian Communist leader, was arrested and imprisoned in Bombay under the old warrant issued in connection with the notorious Cawnpore Conspiracy Case of 1924, the first case in which Communism was put publicly on trial in India. In common with several other accused, M. N. Roy was condemned in absentia, since he was away from India at the time, and his sentence has hung suspended ever since, awaiting the chance to enforce it against him. Immediately following his arrest in Bombay this summer, Roy was removed to Cawnpore, in the United Provinces, there to face a renewal of his former trial of 1924 in Camera and to receive an additional sentence for his activities subsequent to 1924.

To expect a fair and open trial at any time in India, under present circumstances, and particularly now, with the newly installed National government functioning in Great Britain with its enormous conservative majority, is hopeless. The trial of Roy, started under the aegis of the MacDonald Government, will continue and culminate under its successor, the MacDonald-Baldwin regime, and will enforce the most savage sentence within its power to inflict upon a man who has been eagerly sought after by the blood hounds of British imperialism for the last fifteen years.

Manabendra Nath Roy is better known in India and Europe than in the United States, although he lived here for over a year in 1915-16, and is well known in radical circles for his ceaseless agitation, by the written and spoken word, against imperialism in general and against British Imperialism in Particular.

He it was who in 1920 at the Second Congress of the Communist International, formulated with Lenin the Supplementary Theses on the Colonial Question, which won him his earliest recognition as a Marxist theoretician within the official Communist ranks. His writings in the Communist International, official organ of the world Communist Party, his later theses on the colonial question, adopted at subsequent international Communist congresses, and his books published by the international Communist press: *India in Transition*, *One Year of Non-Cooperation*, *The Aftermath of Non-Cooperation*, and *The Future of Indian Politics*, further established his authority as a Marxist scholar and theoretician.

From 1920 to 1930, M.N. Roy lived the life of a political exile abroad, hounded by secret service agents and the pressure of British authority from one European capital to another. Warrants for arrests were issued in Germany in 1922 and in France in 1924 when he was arrested and deported at an hour's notice without a hearing of any kind. Despite the difficulties and dangers of his position, he managed to edit a revolutionary communist organ, *The Vanguard of Indian Independence*, put under ban in India and later changed to *The Masses of India*,

which was printed abroad and smuggled into India from 1922 to 1927. Roy wrote extensively on international communist questions and on Indian matters in particular, for the party press in France, Germany Russia and the United States as well for International Press Correspondence in Vienna.

He was the first and remains one of the few outstanding Indian Marxists and previous to his expulsion in 1929 from the Communist International for differences of opinion on Party tactics in India, he held high office in that body. He is now a member of the Communist Opposition ORGANIZATION.

Early this year carrying out a long cherished resolve, he returned to India to work on the spot, and accomplished marvels of organization among the trade union and congress elements during the short time that he was there before his arrest. Daring to brave British Imperialism, in India and to challenge it face to face, he ended his long exile by coming to grips with it on the spot. Within a few months the inevitable happened; he was discovered, arrested and imprisoned in Bombay and transported to Cawnpore to face old charges brought against him there in 1924.

The charge on which M.N.Roy has been arrested is section 121 of the Indian Penal code, which is "Waging War Against the King. IT CONSTITUTES IN INDIA HIGH TREASON FOR WHICH THE PENALTY IS HANGING OR TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE. WRITING FROM HIS PRISON CELL IN CAWNPORE, ROY SAYS:

"I am going to conduct the defence personally, beginning with I accuse. It will be a challenge to the validity of the laws against offences Against the State, in a country where the state has no constitutional basis. I shall, of course, support this challenge with the authority of principles of modern political philosophy and theory of law".

While the political side of his own defence will be left in Roy's hands, able Indian lawyers have rushed to his aid and many diverse elements in the country, laborers, intellectuals, nationalists Communists, radicals and liberals, have organised to protest against his incarceration and to collect funds for his defence. An "M.N.Roy week" was declared in Bombay on September 27; M. N . Roy defence committees have sprung up like magic thruout the country. There is widespread recognition of the important role he has played and still plays, in shaping India to International Communist thought, for his was the first voice raised along Marxist lines in India, and he more than any other individual, is responsible for the tremendous awakening and

change that has overswept the national revolutionary movement in the last ten years—a change towards internationalism and Marxism along the lines that he has laid down under the stress of constant persecution. Internationally, too, his case has received attention. Protest resolutions pour in from all the countries of Europe, where his name is well known.

Henri Barbusse, who knows him personally, and Albert Einstein, the great physicist, have both protested against his incarceration.

It remains for American liberal intellectuals, radicals and workers to take cognizance of his case.

British Imperialism like all imperialism, is cowardly. It prefers to work in the dark. Therefore, Roy's case is being heard within the walls of his jail, where the voice of the Indian press and public cannot penetrate. But his voice will somehow make itself heard, even from within those prison walls, calling out to end evoking a reply from all those, in whatever country they may be, who have espoused the cause of freedom of oppressed peoples and classes the cause for which he has cheerfully risked his life and freedom since the age of twelve.

EVELYN TRENT (SHANTI DEVI)

BOOKS:

1. One year of Non-cooperation from Ahmedabad to Gaya (along with M.N. Roy) 1923.
2. Communist Manifesto, along with M.N. Roy, An Indian 1920, 19 July, Glasgow Socialist.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

Correspondence, letters, documents - written to Robert C. North and others. Hoover Institute of War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University, California, USA (Papers donated by Diven Meredith)

ARTICLES:

1. The Awakening of India, Inprecor Vol.II, 32-33, 5 May, 1922
2. Mr. Gandhi, an analysis. The Van Guard 1,2,3 1922
3. Three phases of Bipin Chandra Pal, The Vanguard 1,9:15 Sep, 1922
4. French Persecution of Indian Political Exiles V 20 (1925),288

5. Communist Manifesto along with Abani & M.N.Roy  
Glasgow socialist 19 July, 1920
6. M.N. Roy and Indian Communism Oct 31, 1931  
Revolutionary Age New York
7. Gandhi - An Analysis Part I Vol. I, No.1, 15 May, 1922
8. Gandhi, An Analysis Part II, Vol. I, No.3, 15 June, 1922
9. Long drawn Bombay Textile Strike, 1924 17 April, 1924  
(written before the news of the end of strike reached her),  
Inprecor
10. The loss of Lenin to the world revolution, Vanguard,  
Vol. 4, No.5, 15 Feb., 1924.
11. Will the British Labour Government Stand for This ?  
17th April, 1924 (Gives brief life sketches of M.N.Roy,  
Singaravelu, S.A. Dange, Muzafar Ahmed, Nalini Gupta)
12. A Manifesto on Hindu-Muslim Question (M.N.Roy re-  
edited and sent to Bagerhatta Janakiprasad, Spring 1926,  
15th May. After hearing Calcutta riots.
13. Where are the Masses (meant for AITUC, Lahore  
26,27 March, 1923)
14. Features in New York Herald Tribune, 1929-30, daily,  
New York.



15. Edited fiction of McClure Newspaper Syndicate, New York 1930. This was established in 1883. Richard H. Walde & Associates bought it in 1928. Evelyn was editing their fiction publication between 1928-30.
16. Agnes Boone - Pioneer of Western Dance, July, 1929
17. Gandhis March Now Half Finished, San Francisco Chronicle (The World) Sunday Mar 23, 1930.
18. Broadcast from San Francisco, USA KPO Radio World Topics in International feature of KPO 1930.
19. Workers given Modern Housing Facilities, feature in San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday Nov., 3, page 9, Col.1-8, Text Col.1-2, 1935.
20. Move to Restore Hungarian Kingdom Causes Wide Furor, Oct. 28,1928 San Francisco Chronicle. Kellogg treatment Oct. 31, 1928
21. Science Seeks Answer to Riddle of Life and Death Oct. 7, 1928
22. Feminist studies world situation of women Sep. 30, 1928
23. New Balkan Monarchy holds interest Sep. 23, 1928.
24. Woman has leading role in Kuomintang Sep 15, 1928

25. Egypt Will Soon Have Great Reclamation Plan Under Way 1928

26. Kellogg Pact Held Failure if Bars Small Nations

27. Argentina Holds Record for Exercise of Vote Franchise, Aug 19, 1928

28. Islam Faces Election of New Caliph June 24, 1928

29. Samoans take Case April 29, 1928

30. Library has Records of Chinese Jews Mar 10, 1928

31. Condition in Holy Land are Surveyed Mar 10, 1928

32. Features in New York Herald Tribune, New York, 1929-30

33. Articles in State Emergency Rehabilitation Bulletin, San Fransisco, California, USA, 1937-38

#### UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS :

Roy M.N. and Evelyn, Roy-Trent. 1923-1927 57 letters  
International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

## BIOGRAPHY OF EVELYN TRENT JONES

(Note : I traced a brief biographical note in Evelyn's papers in Hoover Institute, Stanford University. But nothing was mentioned about her first husband M.N. Roy, nor any thing about her role in the International Communist Movement - INNAIAH.)

On a crisp, cool, sunshiny day - it was October 20, 1892, Evelyn Trent was born in Salt lake City, Utah. Thus began in incredibly diversified and gratifying legend. The story really begins with Evelyn's father, Lamartine C. Trent, an internationally known mining engineer who also lived a rich and very interesting life.

Mr. Trent was born in London, England in 1848 and first came to the U. S. on a sailing vessel as a boy of eleven years. Later, he fought in the last year of the civil war in some of the war's severest battles and was twice wounded. His mining career began in the rich copper mines around Lake Superior. From there he came west to Montana and Colorado and it was here that he first established his reputation as a mining expert. He was associated with other prominent figures in the development of the Anaconda and other large mining properties. At that time, a charming southern belle by the name Mary DeLome Mcloed of Madison, Florida was visiting in Boulder, Colorado. They met - love blossomed and Mr. Trent and Miss. Mcloed became one in holy matrimony in the year 1878. During the married life they travelled extensively. After the Trent's left Colorado, Mr. Trent became representative for a large

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mining firm with head quarters in Salt Lake City. he and his family made frequent trips abroad to England and the continent and to California. after he severed his connections with the mining firm, he established his own mining and machinery business. Perhaps the apex of his successful life was reached in 1889 when the Japanese government asked the U. S. government to send one of their best qualified mining engineers to their country - a man who could locate and evaluate mineral wealth in Japan. Mr. Trent was selected and spent about a year in Japan before he returned to join his family in Utah. His salary and all of his expenses were paid by the Japanese government and he was paid the highest honors and courtesy during his stay. He traveled to places where no white man had ever been before and was often blindfolded until he reached a given destination to assure secrecy of the location of the mineral property. About 1900 Mr. Trent was sent to Australia and Tasmania as general Manager of the North Mt. Lyall copper company on the west coast of Tasmania where he spent about 2 years. During their travels, the Trent family visited Placer County and liked the location very much. When they left Salt Lake City, early in the 20th century, they moved to California and Mr. Trent developed the Dairy Farm mine at Vantrent, which he later sold to the Guggenheim interest. He then re-opened his mining machinery business in San Francisco and Los Angeles, at the same time opening up certain mining properties in the vicinity of Auburn. He first made his home in Auburn about 1908. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Trent spent about 8 years in Washington D. C., Virginia and Philadelphia and returned to Auburn in 1926 to live permanently.

In the meantime, little Evelyn attended grade school in various interesting places including Auburn and completed high school in Auburn in 1910. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Los Angeles and Evelyn entered Poly Technic high school in Los Angeles and graduated from that institution in 1912. Miss. Trent was always an excellent student with a down-to-earth philosophy which combined good humor with studiousness. She had no difficulty from Stanford University in three years - in 1915. This was even more remarkable due to the fact that very few women were admitted to Stanford at that time.

After graduation, she followed the pattern set by her parents and traveled extensively, particularly in Russia and Europe. Finally she returned to the United States and made her home for several years in New York City, doing free lance writing for New York papers. In July of 1931, Evelyn received the shattering her beloved mother had passed away in her home on Linden Street in Auburn. She returned home immediately. After thinking a variety of aspects of her and her father's lives, she quickly decided to remain in Auburn to care for her father for whom she had great affection and respect. The next four years were happy ones for Evelyn but on March 9, 1935, Lamartine C. Trent, followed his wife in death. It was said of Mr. Trent at that time: "Mr. Trent bought with him and carried to the end of his full and useful life, that rocklike integrity of character, sturdy independence, spirit and loving kindness of heart that endeared him to all who knew him and won the respect of all those with whom he was associated both in private and professional life".

Later in 1935, Evelyn Trent moved to Sacramento and corresponded for Sacramento papers. Cupid had been following Evelyn for years over land and sea but was largely ignored and was becoming a little annoyed. Therefore, at this time he renewed his efforts with increased force and Evelyn was unable to resist cupid's persistent whisperings any longer. On October 10, 1936, she married Dewitt Jones of Richmond, California. Mr. Jones was also a writer. They established a home in Richmond but later moved to Oakland. Dewitt had been a newspaperman in his early life and worked for a Sacramento newspaper and at one time was publisher of his own newspaper at Sierra Madre. At the time of their marriage he was Research Director of the Contra Costa County Development Association. He directed a staff in compiling a history of the Port of Stockton and other historical documents dealing with the East Bay, including the history of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the State Emergency relief administration. He wrote a column for the Oakland Tribune and other papers. For about a year he was connected with the Governor's office as a writer. During that year, the couple lived in Sacramento.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Jones returned to Oakland where Mr. Jones became manager of the Oakland industrial office of the State Department of Employment. Another chapter in Evelyn's story came to an end when Dewitt's untimely death occurred on February 20, 1949. Evelyn and Dewitt had compatible interests, happy dispositions, unbounded energy and zest and their married life was very happy and congenial. Mr. Jones possessed the rare trait of gaining his own pleasure by making Evelyn happy. This included purchasing expensive gifts for his wife. Needless to say, a woman as wise as Evelyn fully appreciated this rare characteristic.

During their marriage, Evelyn continued to work intermittently as a free lance writer, briefly for the Department of Employment and for about two years in 1938 and 1939 for the SERA in San Francisco. In 1950, Evelyn Trent Jones returned to Auburn to live in the home on Linden Avenue. For a time, she was content to manage the property interests and later serve as membership secretary and publicity manager for the Placer County Taxpayers association. She was always very active socially and enjoyed a close relationship with presented Evelyn with a lively, intelligent, inquisitive, wiggly, ball of fur which Evelyn promptly lovingly adopted and named "Flora Mcloed". Since that time Evelyn and Flora have been constant loyal companions. Any evening, they may be seen taking their evening stroll together and enjoying the beauty and freshness of the great out-of-doors at dusk while the majority of their neighbors are glued to their chairs watching T. V., having forgotten the loveliness of the world at eventide.

In 1956 Evelyn decided it was time to return to a more active business career. Too much leisure was just not Evelyn's "dish of tea". Therefore on 12-17-56 she came to work for the Placer County Welfare Department. she entered enthusiastically into this new profession and met every challenge with the same rocklike integrity and kindness of heart that characterized her father. Now, on October 31, 1962, she has retired from the Welfare Department to enter some new career of her choosing. Of this we are sure - Evelyn is not retiring to a rocking chair. But with her "sturdy independence of spirit: we are all waiting with baited breath for the next chapter of this well rounded, "full and useful" story book life. You can bet it won't be dull.





Certainly

1921 Alice St.  
Oakland, Calif.

Dr. David Starr Jordan,  
Chancellor, Stanford University.

My dear Dr. Jordan;

Permit me to thank you for the copy of  
your book, "The Higher Foolishness", which I  
have just received from Bobbs-Merrill.

I have read it with keen delight,  
both for the mellow satire and wholesome pun-  
pricking of many a lurking scissosophic de-  
lusion that I, along with many other mortals,  
am prone to bring. I reminded Mr. Jaffe that  
you had once requested me to review it for "The  
Oenide", which is a task I would greatly en-  
joy, but he told me that Mr. Small had reserved  
that distinction for himself, and the latter as-  
sured me that a review of it is to appear in  
an early issue.

I wonder if I might take the liberty of  
introducing to you a Dutch-American artist,  
Peter van Valkenburg, who is living in Berkeley  
and expects soon to go to Stanford to do some  
character portraits of some of the professors there?  
He has just completed a series of very wonderful  
sketches of the leading men at the University

of California - among others, Mr. Barness,  
the late Benjamin De Wheeler, Mr. Jaffe, Mr.  
Bodier, Mr. Badi and many more. He  
has a talent for bringing out the salient  
characteristics of his subjects in a really  
forceful manner, and aside from his art,  
he is a most sympathetic and sincere type  
of man. He is going soon to San Francisco  
and would like to call on you and Mrs. Jordan  
while there.

Once more permit me to thank  
you for the Book of Revelations - which  
will remain among the most treasured  
of my literary possessions.

With best wishes to yourself and  
Mrs. Jordan,

Sincerely yours,  
Evelyn Trent

*Miss Dorothy Cooper of San Francisco, as "Agnes Colt" (standing) and Miss Evelyn Trent as "Ethel, the Duchess of Carbondale," in Augustus Thomas' comedy "On the Quiet," to be presented by the students at Stanford university tomorrow night.*



**EVELYNS' FAMILY**



**DIVEN MERIDETH, ADELE, EVELYN, LOUISE**

**1968**



**EVELYN, LOUISE, SUZIE, FRANCIS MEREDITH**

FEATURE JOURNALIST



Evelyn Roy in Moscow  
(Courtesy : Chinmohan Sehanobis)



Evelyn Trent as Moderator of  
World News of San Francisco  
Chronicle in 1928

AVIATION WRITER  
HERE ON AIR TOUR



Evelyn Trent



## EPILOGUE

### **Evelyn feels betrayed .**

Evelyn Trent wrote several letters to Sneevliet which revealed the reason behind the separation of M.N.Roy and Evelyn. She addressed these letters to Jack Horner, which was pseudonym of the famous Trotsykyte, Mr. Sneevliet. Evelyn thought that she was at momentous cross-roads in her life. She felt that she had given the very best of herself, wholly and instinctively, during the nine years of her married life, not only to her husband, but to his work. She tried very hard to be not only a true wife and comrade but a real worker by his side. She looked back and there was nothing to reproach herself for as she had neither neglected his love nor work. She was devoted and loyal to both and she had never spared herself in the service of either. To cut the personal tie meant, for her, the cutting off of the tie with work as well as the Indian Movement, for it was still too theoretical and too far removed from actual contact with the masses for her to find a way to work in India, at least from outside. So a change in personal relations meant at the same time a complete break with all that she had tried to build up in the past nine years and a new start in a new party which logically could be none other than the American communist party, where she belonged by her right of birth, language and involuntary affiliation. Evelyn was quite ready to face the great change and to accept it, if it was necessary and inevitable. Evelyn felt that she had still a long way to go in building up the ethics of the society. She was forced to conclude that it was merely the result



of a perverted mentality, thrust too abruptly from a patriarchal environment into a degenerate, post-revolutionary one. Evelyn narrated other factors as well namely the great self immolation from the altar of devotion enhanced by a natural tendency to egotism and vanity in a character undisciplined and ignorant of lives, actualities. No one, she thought even in the bourgeoisie world which she hated, could so flout and betray the highest human instincts as this man she met and loved because he seemed vulnerable she was ready to overlook the first instances of faithlessness, disloyalty and deception, though they cut her like a sharp sword, because she felt that she had married her husband. When he was totally innocent of that side of like, and she felt he must go through with certain experiences in order to fully test and perfect love. She yearned for a long companionship, ideal in its perfection to serve as a base for her to judge all others and to reject them if they proved inferior-as no man of character voluntarily allows a lower relationship to take the place of the higher.

Instead of that, she found each new experience debased, he appeared to hold her very cheaply in the very best days. She guessed that Mr. Sneevliet knew all that, how he behaved-perhaps talked with him and was able to judge his thoughts on the situation he had voluntarily created-for his cool deception of her in Switzerland and equally cold blooded betrayal in Holland were alike,, premeditated and executed in the face of all he had supposed to hold dear in life. He know how she thought and felt about such conduct and he know very well what he was doing when he told her presence at the Dutch conference, was not necessary, without telling her the reasons why. It

was not the first time he had sacrificed a political relationship for a personal him. She felt, at last, that the time had come when she must disentangle both work and love of husband. They no longer coincided as per her view. It was not easy to break up the association and ties of nine years of struggle and development together-of work and study along a particular line or thought. She had given whole self to India because they were to live together, that would have been her whole life too. But her work for India could be only through M.N.Roy and for him, since she was neither Indian nor had there ever been a movement sufficiently organised, either in or around the country, for her to join. All these reasons made her hesitate a little before taking the final step-which meant cutting of all her connections with the past.

She felt that the whole affair way painful and shocking, and disillusioned her during her last days in Europe July 1925. She was puzzled and bewildered and numb with the bitter pain of the separation and she tried very hard to understand how it could ever be possible for the man she worshipped so and who she thought loved her very greatly to betray every given thought and feeling, without apparently even a regret, in fact with even a boasting and a cruel pride. If that was the result of the Communist theory upon the most elementary human instincts of so immeasurably removed man from the degenerate and rotten society of the modern world. Evelyn tried to be with M.N. Roy and he lightly got away for a momentary whim-an impulse. She worshipped M.N.Roy, her Indian husband and treasured what she held to be a very sacred feeling between them, so much so that she resolved from the very beginning never to allow

anyone to mar it. Evelyn felt that Roy shamefully betrayed her not one, but several time. She decided never to return to him. It seems Roy told Mr. Sneevliet that he did not like the combination of wife and politician. She felt that those were cruel words and the thought that prompted them about one who had so earnestly endeavored to be devotedly both.

Evelyn sought the advice and help of Mr. Sneevliet about their relationship and wanted a full report about Roy's words about her. Evelyn thought that Roy wanted to heap her in a sort of polygamous board and as a useful appendage to his work. But that was a relationship which Evelyn resented and never wanted to compromise. She wanted to be herself with character and individuality, capable of independent development.

(Evelyn addressed a letter on 20 August 1925 from Chicago, USA to Mr. Sneevliet in which she expressed the above views) Evelyn addressed another letter to Mr. Sneevliet on 26 October 1925. She regretted that there was not mention of Roy's opinions regarding the separation in his replies. She wanted to steer her course straight on the heaving ocean of uncertainty in which she found herself plunged so suddenly. She had never thought that Roy had personal troubles with regards to her. He never told her of any. He never allowed her to infer such things. She felt that their meeting in Switzerland was really or appeared to be, a second honey-moon to her. That was the reason why Evelyn felt great disillusionment and she was unprepared for separation. She never knew her imperfections and disharmonies, if any, and thought that she was a perfect wife and also tried to be that most dangerous and unpalatable commodity a

perfect wife! Evelyn revealed to Mr. Sneevliet that Roy was completely after two very cold and hostile letters which could be not mistaken silent as expressing his love or allow her to plunge into the unknown future. Evelyn wrote to Roy fully and frankly and asked him to be likewise but Roy had not been frank with her and she failed to understand why. She thought it was a question of oriental delicacy that Roy preferred to spare her feelings and not tell her the truth. Evelyn described herself as realist enough to hear anything except deception from Roy. She thought that happened would not have been half so cruel if it had been done on a basis of frankness, but as it was it almost finished her reason.

Evelyn also hinted that she wanted to share the responsibility of political troubles encountered by Roy but dared not return to him due to their personal situation. Unless Roy asked her to return she was not prepared to do so. Evelyn said that she was sent away by Roy in spite of her begging to be allowed to remain. Evelyn also felt that she could say, after those nine years of close companionship if she really knew him. The best proof is that she never dreamt that her personal life would reach a crisis at the moment when everything else broke up. Roy never hinted at that and she wanted to know the reasons through Sneevliet. Evelyn thought that since she was politically alien, she could not take any activity lest she be deported. She felt strange, for it was unbelievable that things could end so suddenly after she had concentrated so many years of thought and energy to one idea, but stranger things had happened to other women and they somehow got on in the end.

Evelyn was the master of her own destiny by May 1927 and started working as a journalist. She addressed several letters to Roy, but in vain. She offered to return to him and resume the former relationship. It was only after categorical reply from Roy that she should remain in USA, she decided to follow her future course. Evelyn faced slanderous gossip, malicious tongues of various factions in USA, who effectively poisoned the minds of all those liberal and semi-radical people who could help her. They spread such frightful stories about her that all her well-wishers turned away from her. She was accused of being a spy, a renegade, a defaulter of funds, who had abandoned her husband and the movement after having bled them dry, etc.. Evelyn attended the convention in Chicago and witnessed disgusting quarrels, intrigues, and useless discussions. They were all split up and divided into little factions. Evelyn felt that she had no place in the communist party of USA. Another reason, she did not attempt to be active in USA as a communist was to avoid deportation. When Evelyn left Europe, M N Roy predicted that she was lost to the movement.

Evelyn felt that her husband had to be blamed, not for nothing. She felt perhaps that Roy could not help what had happened any more than she could - but wished that he might have been more frank and open so that together they could have discussed and decided on the course to follow, instead of sending her off in ignorance of his real feelings and desires. Evelyn sought divorce when she was sure that Roy did not want her to return. It took her seven months to take the ultimate decision. Evelyn felt that had Roy told her frankly she could have returned to USA as early as 1921 and could have saved four

years of worry and uncertainty. Evelyn felt that only Borodin and Sneevliet knew much about their personal lives.

## **Sneevliet consoles Evelyn**

Commenting about the personal affairs Sneevliet was not sure of the state of mind of Roy during 1925. The things which happened altered his opinion about Roy in so far as he formerly thought that Roy was one of the very few for whom work was everything. Sneevliet feared that Evelyn might mistake that he was defending himself when he should be defending Roy. Sneevliet was absolutely sure that Roy was worrying about Evelyn's trouble and her suffering, and that Roy hoped to help her find a way out of the crisis. But he was not sure whether Roy could give what Evelyn wanted. He defended Roy saying that Evelyn's accusation that Roy betrayed her may not be correct. He further wrote that Roy should not be condemned for things he has not done. The complications that arose between them may not last longer. Sneevliet opined that in a couple of months there was a possibility of meeting between Evelyn and Roy so that they could settle their problems. He wanted Evelyn to meet Roy either in Europe or in Far East with her proposals. But Sneevliet's wish was never realized.

(The above material was traced in Sneevliet Archives, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam).



